

Community News

Surveys being conducted to find solutions for water supply problems in Wiregrass and south Alabama

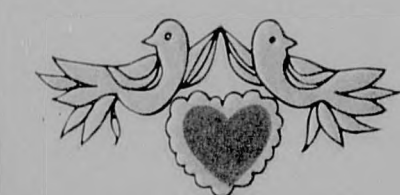
The Geological Survey of Alabama, working with the Choctawhatchee, Pea and Yellow Rivers Watershed Management Authority, is conducting surveys to find a solution to water supply problems in the Wiregrass area of south Alabama. Several major cities in the Wiregrass area have begun to experience water supply problems in recent years, scientists and planners fear that these problems will only worsen as population and industrial growth in the area place increasing demands on existing water supplies. Geological Survey scientists are currently working in the final year of a three-year project designed to establish a comprehensive, watershed-wide hydrologic and biologic database for both surface and subsurface water resources in the Choctawhatchee, Pea and Yellow Rivers watersheds. "These data will provide a scientific basis for developing, managing and protecting the area's water resources," stated geological Survey hydrogeologist and project manager Marlon Cook. What makes this project so unique is the potential usability of the results and the cooperation

which has been displayed by state, county and municipal government entities in parts of the ten southeastern counties working together to complete this important work. Data on subsurface water, surface water and biologic communities will be collected for the study. Dr. Charles Smith, geological Survey geologist says the subsurface water phase of the investigation will: (a) identify and characterize aquifers currently in use (b) identify the source and recharge area of individual aquifers (c) aid in the assessment of the potential for aquifer contamination where aquifers are at or near the surface (d) aid in assessing the effect that continued development of water resources in one community will have on water resources in other communities and (e) identify and evaluate deeper aquifers that are currently untapped. The surface water assessment will help determine whether five streams selected by local agencies can be used as future or alternate water sources. These streams include Blackwood Creek in Dale and Henry Counties, Double

Bridges Creek and Little Double Bridges Creek in Coffee County, Little Choctawhatchee River in Dale and Houston counties and Walnut Creek in Pike County. More than 40 water-quality parameters were measured for each sample collected from the streams. Of primary concern are stream discharge, sediment load, nutrient load, bacteria counts and dissolved oxygen. Evaluation of biological communities in the Choctawhatchee, Pea and Yellow River watershed also is a critical component to the overall water resource assessment. Dr. Patrick O'Neil, Geological Survey biologist, believes that "the condition of benthic macroinvertebrates and fish communities are important gauges of stream conditions within the watershed" the biological assessment will also provide a window into the current status of threatened and endangered fishes and mussels in the watershed. Results of the study, which is scheduled for completion in October, 2000 will be distributed to local governments and water systems throughout the project area.

Commercial vegetable production meeting planned for Feb. 8th

The Coffee County Extension Service announces the commercial vegetable production meeting to be held Tuesday, Feb. 8, at 11:30 a.m. at J&T's Restaurant in New Brockton. Dr. Eric Simmonne, Auburn University Vegetable Specialist, will be speaking on commercial vegetables at the best varieties for this area.



Free adult classes being offered at ESJC

FREE adult education classes are offered in basic reading, writing, math, and to prepare for the GED Test. Enterprise State Junior College and the Southeast Alabama Adult Education Network bring a session to the Frisco Voting Building, Coffee County Highway 110, on Mondays from 9 a.m.-Noon. Enrollment is open at any time and at any session. Call 393-ESJC, ext. 218 to find out more about these special FREE classes!

NOTICE

A "Recovery Fund" has been set up at SouthTrust Bank in Elba to collect funds for William Maddux, a native of Elba, who was severely injured in an automobile accident in North Alabama recently. His medical bills are high and rehabilitation is expected to be long and expensive. William's brother, Sgt. Rick Maddux, is overseeing the recovery fund. Those interested in making a donation can do so at SouthTrust Bank under the William Maddux Recovery Fund - Account No. 50 524 842.

Anyone wishing to obtain further information should contact Sgt. Rick Maddux at the ELMENDORF AFB, Alaska Telephone (907) 753-2268.

William is the son of James Maddux of Elba.

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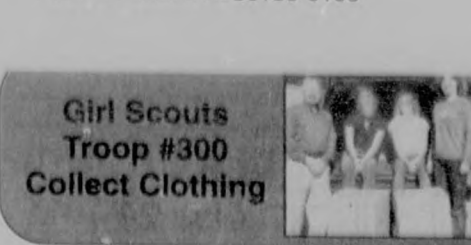
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The Elba Clipper

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COUNCIL SIGNS EMS CONTRACT

New Brockton okays council pay hike

by Marvin McLain, Editor

The New Brockton Town Council took just under thirty minutes to conduct the town's business Monday evening; however, they had to adjourn the meeting until 6 p.m. Tuesday evening in order to take care of a pressing matter - a pay hike for the next town council members.

On the meeting agenda under new business was an ordinance setting the pay scale for the new council which will be elected this year. For the pay raise to become effective in October 2000, it has to be passed by February 22, 2000, and it has to be by a unanimous vote of the council. Councilman Charles Cole was unable to attend Monday's meeting making it necessary to adjourn until Tuesday.

The new ordinance sets the mayor's compensation at \$200 per month and the councilmember's compensation at \$100 per month. There was no doubt that the ordinance would be passed.

Turning to other matters that could be handled, the council approved the appointment of Nathan Dreverly to serve on the water board. He will be replacing Billy Tindol who asked not to be reappointed "because he had some other items to pursue."

Other appointments approved were as follows: Earnestine McMonagle was reappointed to her position on the housing authority; Dorothy Flowers and Doug Smith were reappointed to the board of adjustments; and Barbara Cole was

reappointed to the parks and recreation board.

Mayor Britt Lee told council members that auditors (Barry Brunson, Wilkerson & Bowden, PC) CPA's reported no problems with the town's accounting procedures this year.

"He said our town was in good condition for the condition of the town," Lee said. "To be a small town, we are doing fairly well. We have cut our debt by some \$30,000 from what it was four years ago."

He added, "We have bought a new police car and have gotten most of it paid for, and as of last month we voted to purchase a new truck for the street department plus numerous other bills that we have paid off that was already owed."

The council reviewed and approved the SOP (standard operating procedure) for the siren which will be used to warn those participating in outdoor activities of threatening weather and to take cover.

The high tech warning siren was installed by the Coffee County Emergency Management Agency with the assistance of the Elba Electrical Department. At this time only one siren (located behind The Peoples Bank) has been installed in the town.

In response to Councilmember Linda Gilbert's question if additional sirens were planned, Mayor Lee said, "Probably not. They [EMA] have not said anything about it."

The mayor reported that an agreement had been reached with

Coffee County EMS to provide emergency medical services for the town of New Brockton and surrounding area providing the council chose to sign the contract.

He noted that a few "minor adjustments" had been made to the original agreement. The contract now calls for the town to split (\$500) any costs of repairs to the ambulance provided to EMS by the town on the following items: air conditioning & heating system, electrical system to include the battery, alternator, wiring harness, starter, lights & siren, and radios. This is in lieu of an additional \$250 per month on the contract.

For the first thirty days of the contract, the town will be responsible for all repair costs. Afterwards, the town will be responsible only for the pro-rata share.

The council voted unanimously to sign the contract with Coffee County EMS.

Mrs. Annette Williams, the city clerk, reported that adjustments and been made in the budget to accurately reflect the income and expenditures relating to a street paving project.

She also noted the town's income for the first quarter is close to 25 percent which is as expected. Williams commented that the \$100,000 grant received for the paving project made it appear that the town was at 43 percent of its projected income, but that was not a realistic figure. The 25 percent is

"Each department is close to 25 percent of their budgeted expenditures for the year," she said. "Everybody is keeping close to their budget - so far."

Jerry Gilbert, acting police chief, reported that officers had issued 34 traffic citations during the month, investigated five automobile accidents, and assisted the state and county at a wreck involving a fatality on AL Hwy. 167.

He reported that the fire department had responded to one house fire and one grass fire. Animal control personnel picked up 20 dogs and 1 horse during the month.

The next meeting of the council

Please See NBTC Page 2

Sen. Shelby to address Coffee County residents at county meeting

U.S. Sen. Richard C. Shelby (R-Ala.) will be a guest of the Enterprise and Elba Chambers of Commerce at a "Dutch breakfast" on Friday, Feb. 18, at 7:30 a.m. at Cutts Restaurant in Enterprise. To RSVP for the breakfast, contact the Enterprise Chamber of Commerce at 347-0581. Residents are not required to eat in order to attend the meeting.

Sen. Shelby will discuss his legislative activities and agenda for

the remainder of the 106th Congress. Following his remarks, Sen. Shelby will open the floor to questions and comments from those in attendance.

Sen. Shelby said, "I welcome this opportunity to spend time with area residents. My county-wide meetings provide a unique forum for open dialogue to discuss the important issues currently facing Alabama and our nation."



Recently, State Senator Jimmy Holley and State Representative Terry Spicer presented the Elba Elementary PTO with a check for \$10,000. This money, along with other funds, will be used for a new playground and fitness course.

The new play area will include the existing playground, a new playground, a fitness course, a ball field, and a track. The track will surround the play area. The entire student body will have access to the playground daily as a component of the physical education program, multi-handicapped program, and to enhance many aspects of the classroom instructional programs.

P.E. teacher Bill Raborn stated that he plans to use the playground and fitness course to build endurance, strength, and flexibility and to develop an appreciation for physical fitness in his students. The new playground will be installed late spring or early summer and will be ready for the 2000-2001 school year. The PTO voted to use money raised last year for this much-needed project that will benefit all students at Elba Elementary School.

The PTO Playground Committee thanks all local businesses that have already contributed to this special project. The Elba Elementary PTO is continuing to raise money to fund the playground. Any business that would be greatly appreciated. To make a donation, contact PTO Treasurer Sabrina Kelley at Elba Elementary at 897-5413. Pictured above (l-r) are: Mickey McCollough, Elba Elementary School principal; Sabrina Kelley, PTO Treasurer & Playground Committee Chairperson; Dawn Austin, PTO President; Rep. Terry Spicer; Tab Weeks, member of Playground Committee; Sen. Jimmy Holley; and several members of the Elba Elementary School Student Council (names were not provided).



TRAGEDY AVERTED... Coffee County EMS and emergency personnel were called to the scene of an accident on Highway 87 North just above the Jack Post Office last Wednesday, Feb. 2, shortly after 11 a.m. Upon arriving on the scene, they found a log truck overturned on the roadway with its entire load dumped onto the road and shoulder. The driver of the truck, George E. Folmar, 28, of Kinston was transported to Elba General Hospital where he was treated for minor injuries and released. It appears Folmar lost control of the truck in a curve which resulted in it turning over on its side. The roadway was blocked for several hours as crews worked to move the truck and logs. The accident was investigated by Alabama State Trooper Dale Cobb.

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH Building on Ala. A&M Campus honors Dawson

Dr. Dawson was born and reared in Goshen. He is a former teacher at Mulberry Heights High School in Elba.

Dawson is a World War II veteran and received three battle stars while serving with the Army Air Force. After the war, he earned a Bachelor's degree in Agribusiness education from Alabama A&M College.

Between 1955 and 1963, he operated his own funeral home business in Laverne and Elba, while completing work for his Master's of Education in Agribusiness education from Tuskegee University.

In 1967, he enrolled in Penn

State University where he received his Doctorate.

Apart from his pursuit of higher education and business success, he has dedicated his life to teaching. Since 1953, he has taught science and agriculture at the high school, college and graduate levels. He also served as Associate Dean of Alabama A&M University Cooperative Extension Program. From 1971 to 1993,

Dr. Dawson served as chairperson for the Association of Extension Administrators at 1890 Land Grant Colleges and Universities and chairperson for the Alabama

Rural Development Council.

His greater honor was in 1991 when the House of Representatives passed a resolution naming the three-story cooperative extension building on the campus of Alabama A&M University in his honor.

Dr. Dawson has a Bachelor's, Masters, and PhD degree in agriculture. He has 14 years of farm experience and 40 years of professional experience in agriculture. He and his wife, Gloria, live in Huntsville and have one daughter.

St. Valentine's Day mysterious holiday

by Linda Hodge, Staff Writer

Every holiday has its own special meaning and purpose, but Valentine's Day is the day of showing loved ones just how much they are loved and cared for by family and friends.

Through the years, flowers, candy and cards have become symbols of Valentine's Day, but these things are not the reason we celebrate on Feb. 14 each year.

St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, shows traces of both Christian and Roman traditions, but the true story behind the holiday is as mysterious as the saint for which we celebrate.

There are many legends of St. Valentine, and regardless of which story one chooses to accept as true, it is known that February has long been the month of romance. Even today, the Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were killed.

So, what exactly are the stories behind the holiday that fills us with love and emotion?

In one legend, Valentine was a priest in third century Rome who defied Emperor Claudius II by performing secret marriages for young lovers. It is said that Claudius thought young single men made better soldiers than married men; therefore, he outlawed the marriage of young, single men. Valentine knew this was wrong and continued to unite young lovers; however, his actions were discovered, and Claudius ordered that he be put to death. Others stories contend that Valentine was killed for attempting to free Christians from Roman prisons where they were often tortured and beaten.

Yet, another legend, which has certainly increased Valentine's appeal as heroic, sympathetic and

romantic, is the one of his own love. This story contends that Valentine, himself, actually sent the first "valentine" card.

While in prison, Valentine met a young girl and fell in love with her. It appears that this young girl, who visited Valentine during his confinement, may have been the daughter of a jailor. In the end, Valentine's death was inevitable, but before he was put to death, he did manage to write her a letter. It

was signed, "From your Valentine."

At this point, it can be argued that Valentine's Day is celebrated to commemorate the anniversary of St. Valentine's death which is estimated to have occurred around 270 A.D., but some may say that the holiday is celebrated in the middle of February because the church wanted to "christianize" the pagan

Please See DAY Page 2

Area Happenings

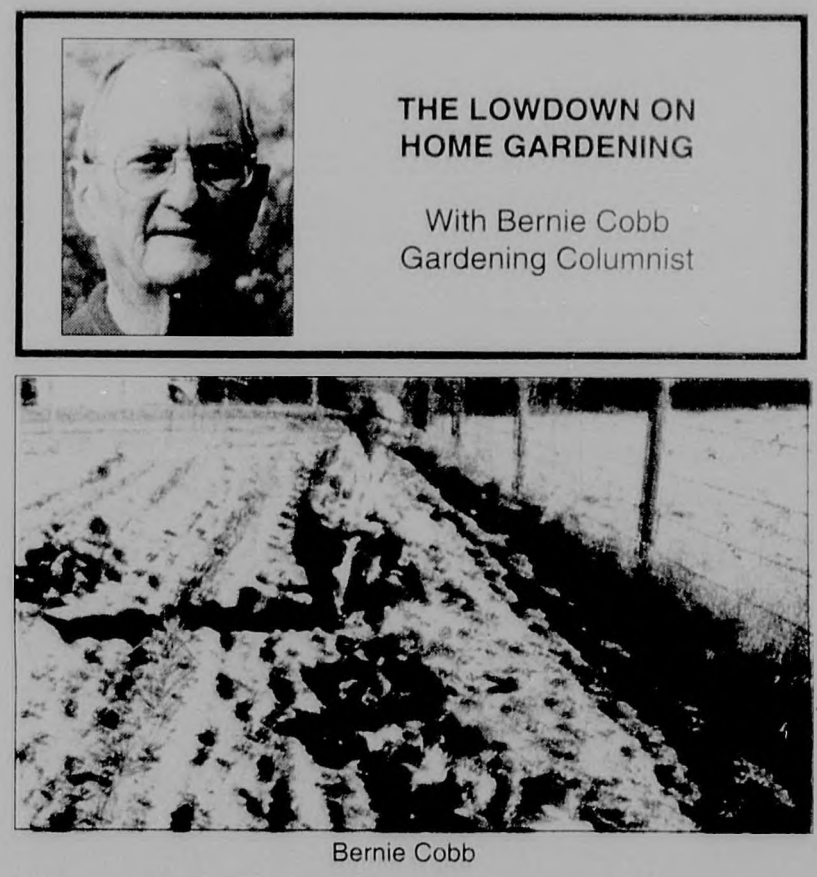
ELBA PAGEANTS' MEETING. A meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 10, (TODAY) at 6 p.m. for all girls interested in Future Little Miss Elba (Age 4 - Kindergarten); Little Miss Elba (1st Grade); Jr. Miss Elba (7th Grade - Age 16); and Miss Elba (Age 17 - 21). This year, the pageant is also open to girls who attend Zion Chapel Schools. The meeting will be held at the Elba City Library. This event is sponsored by the Elba Chamber of Commerce.

PEANUT PRODUCERS' MEETING. The Alabama Peanut Producers Association will hold its 42nd Annual meeting Friday, Feb. 11, at the Coffee County Farm Center in New Brockton. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. followed by a program that will begin promptly at 10 a.m. A catered lunch will be served at noon.

FORESTRY INCENTIVES PROGRAM. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has announced a sign-up for the Forestry Incentives Program through Feb. 11. There will be approximately \$500,000 available for cost-sharing in Alabama for fiscal year 2000. In Coffee County, the sign-up will be in the NRCS office located at the USDA Service Center (located in the County Complex) in New Brockton.

COMMISSION MEETING. The Coffee County Commission will hold its bi-monthly meeting Monday, Feb. 14, 2000, at 9 a.m. in the Community Room located in the County Complex in New Brockton, Ala.

RETIRED TEACHERS & SUPPORT PERSONNEL MEET. The Coffee County Association of Retired Teachers and Support Personnel will meet Tuesday, Feb. 15, at Ryan's Steakhouse in Enterprise at 11 a.m. The meeting's program will be on Consumer Issues with Dr. Rick McBride, ARTA executive secretary, speaking. It will be a Dutch treat meal.



THE LOWDOWN ON HOME GARDENING

With Bernie Cobb
Gardening Columnist

The Lowdown on cabbage

Gardening Columnist, Bernie Cobb, harvests the last few fresh heads of cabbage from his fall planting. "Most mature cabbage, especially during the colder months, is free of insects and can remain in the garden for two or three weeks without going bad," Cobb says. "I did have a little dam-

age on top of some heads from recent freezes but I just cut that away and still had some good eating left. Cabbage can survive cold weather pretty well here in Alabama." In this one patch, Cobb also has onions, garlic and radishes growing. (Photo by Bernie Cobb.)

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EDITORIAL

BRAINSTORMS
With Ferrin Cox

Governor Siegelman recently got caught in one of those secret recordings when he reportedly placed a conference call to a group of state judges. It is getting to the point a person needs one of those monitors to detect unrecorded recordings or better yet would be an absolute policy of never, ever saying anything which didn't need to be said publicly, especially when talking with people who might have political motives to set traps. We don't know how many judges the governor wanted to get out and wine and dine the newspaper folks, but let it be known, Governor, that not a one has even offered to feed you Elba editorial writer! That could be because they ignored your request or maybe it is a matter of ignoring that country boy. Whatever the reason, thanks for omitting us from this debate!

The U.S. Post Office has officially begun the search for an alternate site for the new Elba postal facility. An advertisement in this issue of The Elba Clipper gives prospective landlords an idea of what is being sought. They are seeking a site bounded on the North and West by the 203 Bypass and East by Smith Avenue, and South by Payne Street. That gives people quite a wide latitude of area to propose to the department. Those interested are urged to follow up early, while they still have time to dot the i's and cross the t's.

The Alabama Legislature got the annual legislative session underway with almost a perfectly smooth start. The one thing we see moving rapidly is the bill to appoint a pay commission. It is our opinion that this is not because the lawmakers are so interested in helping the judges, sheriff's, etc. but in fact it looks like a smooth way for them to get a personal pay hike without getting hit by the voters back home. If this bill passes and becomes law, each lawmaker can say (correctly) that he or she didn't vote for the raise but must accept it. We have wondered for years why people will go to Montgomery on a promise to do good for the state, and about the best, and most unanimous, thing they get done is giving themselves more money or other benefits.

Sometimes it seems life presents us with situations which can't be explained. An example is all the sewing plant closings across the South, especially in Alabama. Hardly a week goes by without an announcement of several hundred more people being given their walking papers because a plant is closing and the business going South of the border. That should mean that every week hundreds of people are added to the unemployment rolls, but that is not true. Last week there was an announcement that unemployment is the United States is lower than it has been in the past 30 years! What we would like to believe is that these people are being laid off from \$6.00 an hour jobs and then quickly finding another paying \$8.00 or \$10.00 per hour.

We received an e-mail this week from a relative who retired on January 1st. He reported being part of a three couple crowd which went to Biloxi last week during all the bad weather. That in itself was a surprise coming from this straight-laced guy, but he also wanted us to believe that every body was money, either in Biloxi or later in New Orleans. Of course this retired lawyer said he didn't gamble, but his wife and everyone else did and won... hogwash.

There is concern in Montgomery about the deteriorating condition of the Confederate Monument located on the state capital grounds. Disregarding the flak our opinion will probably generate, let us suggest the folks arguing and marching for returning the Confederate flag to the Capitol dome turn their energies and money to repairing this historic statue. That would be much more meaningful, much less offensive and would be a historically correct way of honoring their ancestors (even though some of us probably have an ancestor or two who was less than honorable).

An Expensive Fish Story

(NAPS)—Well-meaning, but apparently poorly-informed, environmentalists have succeeded in convincing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to declare a fish they called the Alabama sturgeon to be protected as an endangered species.

Scientists, however, point out that the fish never existed at all. Exactly three live sturgeon have been found in Alabama waters after two years of concentrated searching—and they apparently were Mississippi shovelnose sturgeon. Millions of these fish are alive and well in Mississippi.

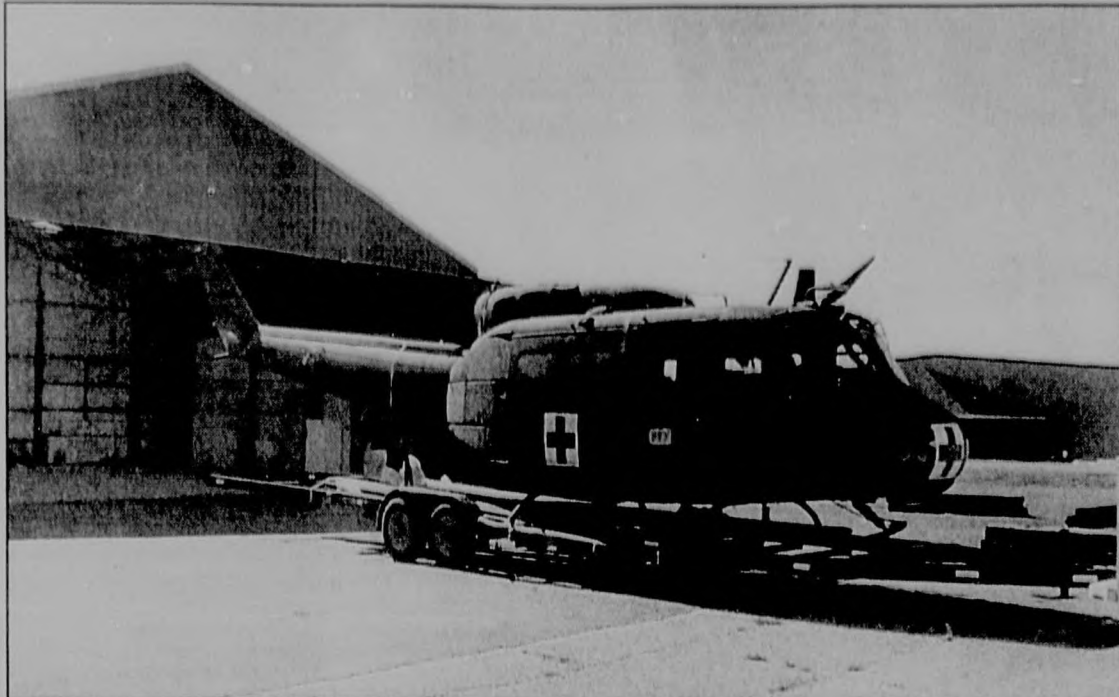
Unfortunately, the consequences of declaring the fish endangered could endanger human health and happiness. When a species is listed as endangered, a map of its habitat is drawn up and it automatically becomes illegal for a wide range of activities to take place within those bounds. In this case, the area encompasses a broad range of the Alabama River, which is an important factor in the economic life of the region.

In fact, economists estimate that between 10,000 and 20,000 jobs will be lost, while the monetary loss could reach \$11 billion.

Closing off the area would affect a number of industries.

- Shippers, and their customers, because the river is a major highway for transporting a wide range of commercial products.
- Farmers would find it a growing problem. They could face jail time if rainwater runoff from their lands was found to contain otherwise harmless pesticides.
- The forest products industry, which works near the river and uses it to move goods.
- Utilities—and therefore all business that need electricity—that depend on coal barged down the river.

Many people hope Vice President Al Gore, because of his strong interest in things environmental, could act in this case to bring much needed common sense to bear on the problem of the fish that isn't there.



OFF TO A GOOD START... Last Friday, a UH1H "Huey" was delivered to the Elba airport via truck and trailer. This was the second step (first one was getting the airframe donated) toward the final goal of having the Huey mounted on a pedestal in the Veterans Memorial Park located on U.S. Highway 84 East in Elba. The project started several weeks ago when the City of Elba agreed to make the request for the Huey. This was necessary in order to acquire the helicopter since it was not being mounted in a city-owned park. Veterans Memorial Park was funded and constructed by National Security on the grounds of their corporate headquarters located in Elba. A more in depth story on the Huey and those individuals who worked so hard to get it will be forthcoming when it is mounted in the park. Several hours of work will be necessary prior to the Huey's going "airborne" again.

DAY

(Continued from Page One)

Lupercalia festival.

Lupercalia, which began at the end of February, Feb. 15, was a fertility festival. It was dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, as well as to the Roman founders, Romulus and Remus. To begin this festival, Roman priests would gather at the sacred cave where Romulus and Remus were believed to have been cared for by a she-wolf or lupa. The priests would sacrifice a goat, for fertility, and a dog, for purification. The goats head was skinned into strips and dipped in sacrificial blood. The strips were carried into the streets and used to gently slap women and children. The women apparently wanted to be slapped by the strips because they believed it would make them more fertile for the upcoming year.

Later that same day, the single men were allowed to draw the name of a single woman out of a hat. The two were paired for the year, and these matches often ended in marriage.

After Pope Gelasius declared Feb. 14 as St. Valentine's Day around 498 A.D., the Roman "lovey" for romantic pairing was outlawed. And, during the Middle Ages, the people of France and England enhanced the idea of Feb. 14 being the day of romance due to their belief that the mating season for birds began on Feb. 14.

Today, the legends and stories of St. Valentine's Day are embellished by the gifts given to show the importance of love. It is estimated Valentine's Day is second only to Christmas in the sending of greeting cards every year.

ELBA GENERAL HOSPITAL REPORT

Elba General Hospital had the following patients admitted during the time period of February 1, 2000, through February 7, 2000. They were: Odessa Kilcrease, Pearl Tiltis, James Vaughan, Robert Faulk, Alan Watson, Robert Pouncey, Beatrice McDermott, Katie Price, Randall Crawford, Kenneth Johnson, Barbara Gay, Mardie Daniels, Leslie Compton, Joshua Moore, Carolyn Hudson, Kenneth Moore, Carolyn Hudson, Irene Davis, Betty Driggers, Fletcher Maddox, Billy Davis, Lillie Mae McGowan, Samantha Morris, Charles Hurd, Brad McMillan, and Mary Vaughan.

Persons discharged during the same time period were: Patrick Brooks, Timothy Thigpen, Nicholas Green, Tyrone Crawford, Sheila Armstrong, Barbara Gay, John Frank Phillips, James Vaughan, Alan Watson, Robert Pouncey, Robert Faulk, Katie Price, Joshua Parrish, Willie Kilcrease, Beatrice McDermott, Randall Crawford, Odessa Kilcrease, Kenneth Moore, Mardie Daniels, Dexter Goodwin, Kenneth Johnson, Carolyn Hudson, Betty Driggers, Billy Davis, Samantha Morris, and Lillie Mae McGowan.

ALERT

The administration of the Elba General Hospital and Nursing Home has placed into effect a visitor restriction. There will be no one visiting residents until further notice. No children please! Due to the widespread cases of flu, pneumonia, and respiratory infections in the community, visitation is being restricted. All visitors must report to the nurse's station for further instruction. Cooperation in this matter would be appreciated.

will be March 6, 2000 at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

Other actions by the council were as follows:

- ***Approved payment of monthly bills totaling \$39,965.21.
- ***Accepted a \$200 donation from Mark Bial for the use of the town's baseball park by the Coffee County American Legion baseball team.

NBTC

(Continued from page One)

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Municipalities' elections set for August 2000

by Marvin McIlwain, Editor

Last week in *The Elba Clipper* was a story concerning the upcoming general election and a special election to be held in March - there is more election that will be held this year.

The City of Elba, along with other municipalities throughout the state, will hold a city election to determine the leadership - mayor and council members - for the next four years.

The following are some important dates that should be remembered by those aspiring to hold office in their local government:

- As of August 22, 1999, candidates for municipal elections could begin raising money for their campaign.
- July 10, 2000 - a 45-day pre-election campaign disclosure report must be filed with the probate judge if the candidate has raised or spent more than \$1,000 on his or her campaign.
- July 18, 2000 (5 p.m.) is the last day for qualifying to run for municipal office.
- July 24, 2000 - Last possible day for candidates to file a statement showing the names of their campaign committee with the probate judge.
- August 22, 2000 is election day.

There are several other important dates dealing with absentee voting and filing of disclosure forms that should be noted as the election draws closer.

BULLETIN BOARD

- **SOCIAL SECURITY REP.** Court-house 4th Tues. 12:30-1:30. Call FREE 1-800-772-7215.
- **ELBA CITY SCHOOL BOARD** - 1st Thurs. 5:30 p.m. - Sup. Office.
- **AMERICAN LEGION** - 1st Thurs. 7:30 p.m. Legion Hall, Troy Hwy.
- **ELBA ATHLETIC CLUB** - Mondays 6:30 p.m. - EHS Cafeteria.
- **MASONIC LODGE 170** - 1st & 3rd Mondays of each month 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
- **BAND BOOSTERS** - 1st Mon. - 7 p.m. Band Room @ Elba High School.
- **VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER** - Mondays 8:12 noon & 12:30 - 4:30 New-Brockton @ Farm Center Complex 894-5858.
- **COFFEE COUNTY COON HUNTERS ASSN.** - 3rd Sat. - 3 p.m. - Club House @ Elba High School.
- **COFFEE REPUBLICAN WOMEN** - 3rd Wed. Noon - Colony Inn, Enterprise.
- **AIRPORT AUTHORITY** - 1st Thurs. day at noon, City Hall Conference Room.
- **ARP** meets every 3rd Tuesday night of the month.
- **CIVIL AIR PATROL** - Every Monday 7 p.m. - Elba Airport, Dinscott Burger.
- **ELBA ATHLETIC CLUB** - Mondays 6:30 p.m. - EHS Cafeteria.
- **WOODMAN OF THE WORLD LODGE 1932** - 4th Thursday night of the month @ 7:00 p.m. at the Woodman Lodge located at 510 W. Simmons Street, Elba.

Cell Phone Safety Tips In Your Car

The wireless phone is one of the greatest safety devices since 911. Over 98,000 calls are made daily to 911 or other emergency numbers from wireless phones.

To maximize your safety, consider these tips from the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association (CTIA) for safely using your wireless phones while driving.

- Let the person you are speaking with know you are driving; if necessary, suspend the call in heavy traffic or hazardous weather conditions.
- Position your wireless phone without any easy reach.
- When available, use a hands free device.
- Do not take notes or look up phone numbers while driving.
- Do not engage in stressful or emotional conversations that may divert your attention from the road.
- For more safety information, you can call the CTIA toll-free at 1-888-901-SAFE.

BE CAREFUL

Elba Police Report

The Elba Police Department, beginning Monday, January 31, 1999, investigated the following incidents: two assaults, one attempted suicide, one theft of property, two harassments, and two disorderly conducts.

The following arrests were made: three for harassment, one for disorderly conduct, and one for criminal trespass.

Traffic citations issued during the week were as follows: seventeen for speeding, one for driver's license not in possession, two for violation of seat belt law, and two for driving while driver's licenses are suspended.

Daily activity highlights for the week were as follows:

MONDAY, JANUARY 31 - River stage - 5:24 (6:46 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to a residence on AL Hwy. 141 (9:00 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to Powell Circle (2:17 p.m.).

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1 - River stage - 5:11 (6:38 a.m.); Fire alarm at Elba High School (9:30 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to a residence on Co. Rd. 360 (10:30 a.m.); Alarm at Hardee's (11:01 p.m.); Alarm at Elba Texaco (11:28 p.m.).

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2 - River stage - 4:50 (7:00 a.m.); Fire department dispatched to a house fire on Highland Avenue (9:27 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to a residence on Smith Avenue (10:24 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to a wreck on AL Hwy. 87N (11:19 a.m.); Alarm at a residence on Jackson Street (11:51 a.m.); Coffee County EMS

SELL YOUR UNWANTED ITEMS IN THE CLASSIFIEDS

\$3.00

CALL CRIMESTOPPERS @ 897-3881

Elba Police Report

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Legislators from race track counties believe that adding video poker will fix their problems. They're introducing bills to legalize it. Well, Winston Churchill did say, "Never give up!"

Bills will be introduced as legal legislation, which is treated differently from general legislation; whenever all legislators of the impacted area favor an act, the legislative body typically votes in favor.

Video poker is not a local issue and should not be treated as such. It would have negative state-wide effects. Casinos will appear at race tracks and Indian Tribal Grounds, pronto.

Video poker, the "crack cocaine of gambling," is highly addictive, especially to teenagers and older women. The rapidity of the game is "rewarding." Six to eight games are played in sixty seconds. Players become entranced, sometimes playing for hours without awareness of time. Perhaps that's what happened at the State Line Casino in South Carolina the summer of 1997 when Army Sgt. Baker left his 10-day old baby in the car and went in to play a few hands. When she came out 7 1/2 hours later, Joy was dead from dehydration.

The game requires minimal skill. It's played alone, making it unstimulating and enticing to women. Addiction experts report that it takes 20 years to "bottom out" on horse racing but only 2 1/2 years on video poker.

Economically, it does not attract tourists dollars. Most gamblers are locals, mainly of the lower middle economic group. Only a few janitorial jobs would be created. The machine only requires a telephone outlet to operators.

I encourage readers to inform their legislators of what they want. I'm hoping they vote against it. I'm told that abstaining from voting or absence during voting is more for the proposal than against it.

Sincerely,
Mildred Blanton
P.O. Box 51
Brundidge, AL 36010

EXPRESS YOUR VIEWS
WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

CARDS OF THANKS

CHANDLER FAMILY
The family of Jerry B. Chandler would like to thank everyone for their calls, visits, food, flowers and contributions during the passing of our loved one. We appreciate all the kind compassionate words and deeds. We know he was a special person and are glad you thought so too.

Patsy Chandler, Johnny and Lori Miller & family, Dennis and Tonya Sasser & family, Keith and Tasha Chandler & family 2/10pd.

TAYLOR FAMILY
The Dan W. Taylor Family would like to express our deepest thanks and appreciation for all the kindness and consideration shown to us during this difficult time in our life. It truly made a difference to have caring and compassionate friends and loved ones with us.

May God bless each of you in a special way.
Love in Jesus,
Benita, Joshua, Amanda, Lillian and Nancy 2/10pd.

Let me close by expressing my thanks to this community for the love you've shown me. It is indeed a privilege to live in Elba.
Janice Clark

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4 - River stage - 4:52 (6:35 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to a wreck on AL Hwy. 167 (7:30 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to a residence in New Brockton (2:37 p.m.).

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5 - River stage - 4:31 (6:20 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to a residence on Edgewood Drive (1:45 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to a residence on Brunson Circle (3:12 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to a residence in New Brockton (3:28 p.m.); Minor wreck reported at the Elba Dairy Queen (3:46 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to a residence on AL Hwy. 125N (5:28 p.m.).

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6 - River stage - 4:13 (6:51 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to a residence on Reese Avenue (12:36 p.m.); Alarm at NASCO Equipment Company on Putnam Street (3:23 p.m.).

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JERRY "BENNON" BENTON CHANDLER

Mr. Jerry "Bennon" Benton Chandler, age 56, of 9 County Road 360, Elba, died Feb. 1, 2000 at the decedent's residence.

Funeral services were held Feb. 3, 2000 at First Baptist Church of Elba with Dr. Robert Paul, Rev. Matt Gray and Rev. Larry Wise officiating. Burial followed in the Evergreen Cemetery of Elba with Hayes Funeral Home directing.

Survivors include his wife, Patsy Ann Chandler, Elba; a son and daughter-in-law, Keith and Tasha Chandler, Elba; two daughters and sons-in-law: Lori and Johnny "Bubba" Miller, Orange Park, Fla.; Tonya and Dennis Sasser, Elba; five sisters: Mary Moore, Enterprise; Steely Mullins, Rutledge; Shirley Williams, Greenville; Faye Manning, Elba; Pat Boswell, Elba; three brothers: Joe Chandler, Opp; James Chandler, Elba; Horace Chandler, Enterprise; eight grandchildren: Hayden Chandler, Madison Chandler, Emilee Sasser, Heather Sasser, Jeremy Sasser and Jonathan Sasser, all of Elba; Adam Miller and Aimee Miller, both of Orange Park, Fla. Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society.

RUFUS FRANKLIN CATRETT

Mr. Rufus Franklin Catrett, age 80, died Feb. 2, 2000 at Crenshaw Baptist Hospital.

He was at home in the Fleetwood Community unit moving to the Laverne Nursing Home facility in 1998.

Funeral services were held Feb. 4, 2000 from the Fleetwood Baptist Church with Bro. Joe Waldo and Bro. Wayne Dean Sr. officiating. Burial followed in the Providence Cemetery with Dillard Funeral Home of Troy directing.

Mr. Catrett was preceded in death by his wife, Kate Oglesby Catrett, a son, Segrid "Smookey" Catrett. Survivors include his children: Fred Oglesby, Elba; Sandra Berry, Glenwood; Linda Gibson, Fairhope; Pansy Hodges, Huntsville; two sisters: Hattie Del Nelson, Elba; Annie Ruth Boutwell, Laverne Nursing Facility; 12 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

DIXIE L. CROCKER

Mrs. Dixie L. Crocker, a native of Elba, longtime resident of Goose Creek, S.C., and a resident of Mobile for the past nine months, died Feb. 1, 2000 at the family residence.

Funeral services were held Feb. 3, 2000 from the Chapel of Mobile Memorial Gardens Funeral Home. Burial followed in the Mobile Memorial Gardens.

Survivors include a daughter: Elaine Mison Shobert, Theodore; a son: James D. Crocker, Mount Pleasant, S.C.; a sister: Lucille Wood, Phenix City; eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

MENNIE OLA HARDEN HUDSON

Mrs. Mennie Ola Harden Hudson, age 89, of 759 County Road 544, Elba, died Feb. 2, 2000 at Flowers Hospital in Dothan.

Funeral services were held Feb. 4, 2000 at Hayes Funeral Home with Rev. Hubert McWaters and Rev. J.J. Hataway officiating. Burial followed in the New Haven Cemetery in Elba with Hayes Funeral Home directing.

Survivors include three sons: James B. Harden, Opp; Johnny Harden, Apollo Beach, Fla.; Charles Harden, Elba; four daughters: Inez Watson, Winter Haven, Fla.; Agnes Mack, Elba; Martha Jones, Bonifay, Fla.; Bernia Ellis, Elba; two sisters: Ava Nell Adkins and Estelle Weeks, both of Avon Park, Fla.; 11 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

RHONDA LITTLE

Mrs. Rhonda Little, age 37, of 2530 County Road 304, Glenwood, Ala., died Feb. 4, 2000 at the decedent's residence.

Funeral services were held Feb. 6, 2000 at Victoria Baptist Church with Rev. John Johnson officiating. Burial followed in the Victoria Baptist Church Cemetery with Hayes Funeral Home of Elba directing.

Survivors include her husband: Jimmy Dwayne Little, Glenwood; her father: Donald Hussey, Elba;

AREA DEATHS

her mother: Sue Hussey, Elba; two sons: Andrew Stewart Little and Steven Mathew Little, both of Glenwood, Ala.; three brothers: Donnie Hussey, Jeff Hussey and Stacy Hussey, all of Elba.

HAUGHTIE P. BOUTWELL

Mrs. Haughtie P. Boutwell, age 93, of 11088 Highway 125, Elba, Ala., died Feb. 5, 2000 at her residence.

Mrs. Boutwell was a life long resident of Coffee County and retired after 36 years of service in the schools of Coffee County.

Funeral services were held Feb. 8, 2000 at Victoria Baptist Church with Rev. John Johnson and Rev. Mack King officiating. Burial followed in the Victoria Baptist Church Cemetery with Hayes Funeral Home of Elba directing.

Mrs. Boutwell was preceded in death by her husband, Dewey M. Boutwell.

Survivors include her son: Kenneth Boutwell, Hampton, Va.; two daughters: Estelene B. Helms, Brundidge, Ala.; Eulene "Tiny" Wise, Elba; 16 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, one great-great-granddaughter and six step great-great-grandchildren.

MOZELL MCCORMICK

Mrs. Mozell McCormick, born Aug. 30, 1921 in Coffee County, died Jan. 30, 2000 at her home in Elba, Ala.

Funeral services were held Feb. 3, 2000 at Rocky Head Missionary Baptist Church of Elba with Rev. A.R. Williams officiating. Burial followed in the Rocky Head Cemetery with Hammond Funeral Home of Elba directing.

Mrs. McCormick was preceded in death by a brother, J.D. Carpenter. Survivors include five daughters: Delores (Arthur D.) Flowers, Elba; Carolyn (Foy Jr.) Barge, Tuscaloosa, Ala.; Erma (Doug)

Pre-need funeral planning now available at Hayes Funeral Home for details 897-2225

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CHURCH



THE SINGING COOKIES will be in concert at Country Cathedral, located on U.S. Hwy. 84 E. of Opp, Friday, Feb. 11. The concert will start at 7 p.m. No admission charge. Everyone welcome.

Revival Services planned at Church of God February 16-21

The Elba Church of God will hold Revival Services Feb. 16-21 at 7 p.m. nightly. J.E. Thornton from

Family and Friends Day will be observed at The Greater New Springfield Church

The Greater Springfield Missionary Baptist Church of New Brockton, where the Rev. H. Williams serves as pastor, will observe Family and Friends Day on Sunday, Feb. 13, 2000, at 11 a.m. The pastor's anniversary celebration will begin at 2:30 p.m. Special guests will be the Rev. Chester A. Hammonds Jr. and the congregation of the Pleasant Shade Missionary Baptist Church of Enterprise.

N.A.A.C.P. Quarterly state meeting and training sessions to be held

N.A.A.C.P. quarterly state meeting and training sessions will be held on Feb. 12 from 10 a.m. until 12 noon at Johns Chapel A.M.E. Church in Enterprise.

N.A.A.C.P. members state wide are urged to attend. Prospective members are also invited. There will be refreshments and door prizes. For more information, contact 393-6747 or 347-7896.

District Lay Organization to help with New Bethel A.M.E. Church construction

Ozark District Lay Organization President, Franklin Simmons of Enterprise, has designated Saturday, Feb. 12, at District Lay Workday at New Bethel A.M.E. Church in Geneva. The church house is located in a flood zone, and the small congregation needs help in completing a new building on higher ground at the corner of Merritt and Church streets in Geneva. Pastor Paul Phillips has stated that any donations will be accepted whether the form of labor, materials or finance. During its last quarterly meeting, the District Lay Organization unanimously agreed to help their sister church. For more information about working on any Saturday or about other assistance, please call Pastor Phillips at 393-2351. Please call Simmons at 393-3827 concerning the Lay Workday on Feb. 12.

Worship at the church of your choice this Sunday!

Church Directory

ALBERTSON BAPTIST CHURCH Sunday School: 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship: 11:00 a.m. Even. Service: 6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Service: 7:00 p.m.	ELBA CHURCH OF CHRIST Randy Neal, Minister Bible Study: 9:00 a.m. Morn. Worship: 10:00 a.m. Even. Service: 6:00 p.m. Wed. Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.	FRIENDSHIP HOLINESS J. K. Wesley, Pastor Sunday School: 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship: 11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening: 6:00 p.m. Wed. Service: 7:00 p.m.	GREATER NEW ZION BAPTIST CHURCH Willie L. Peterson, Pastor Sunday School: 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship: 11:00 a.m. Wed. Service: 7:00 p.m.	ELBA DELIVERANCE TABERNACLE Allen Richards, Pastor Sunday School: 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship: 11:00 a.m. Even. Service: 6:00 p.m. Wed. Service: 7:00 p.m.	HARRIS TEMPLE COGIC W. K. Ellison, Pastor Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship: 11:00 a.m. Wed. Service: 11:00 a.m.	HAW HILL ASSEMBLY OF GOD Shirley Ellis, Pastor Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship: 11:00 a.m. Even. Service: 6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Service: 7:00 p.m.	HERBON BAPTIST CHURCH Mark Jankowski, Pastor Sunday School: 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship: 11:00 a.m. Even. Service: 6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meeting: 7:00 p.m.	INO ASSEMBLY OF GOD Wesley D. Ard, Pastor Sunday School: 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship: 11:00 a.m. Even. Service: 6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meeting: 6:30 p.m.	INO BAPTIST CHURCH Gerry Winstead, Pastor Sunday School: 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship: 11:00 a.m. Even. Service: 6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meeting: 7:00 p.m.	JACK ASSEMBLY OF GOD Rev. Stephen Dubose, Pastor Sunday School: 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship: 11:00 a.m. Even. Service: 6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Service: 7:15 p.m.	FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD - KINSTON Danny Bradshaw, Pastor Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship: 11:00 a.m. Even. Service: 6:00 p.m. Wed. Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.	FANON BAPTIST CHURCH Bernard Strickland, Pastor Sunday School: 10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship: 11:00 a.m. Even. Service: 6:00 p.m. Wed. Service: 6:15 p.m.
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ROUND & ABOUT WITH ERIA 897-2006

Scripture: Hebrews 1:1-14

***Thinking of you, praying for you, the Chandler family, Rev. Henry Ewing Jr., Johnnie M. Daniels, Johnnie Venter, Pearl Mincey, Alan Belcher, Lovie Hooks, Rosie Daniels, Ruby H. Ellison, Pearlie Tillis, Amanda Tillis, Jessica Pearson, John E. Folmar.

***Annual Usher Day of Rocky Head MB Church will be Feb. 13 at 2:30 p.m. The speaker will be Rev. W.O. Edwards, pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Brantley.

***Men in Action - New Philadelphia COGIC Annual Men Day Program will be Feb. 13 at 3 p.m. The guest speaker will be Rev. Homer Moore of the First Assembly of God Church in Elba.

***Youth Praise Services of Rocky Head MB Church in Elba are every first Sunday at 5:30 p.m. The youth will be in charge of all activities. The services will include singing, praising, games, field trips and other activities.

***Black History Program will be held on Feb. 27 during morning services at Rocky Head MB Church in Elba. For more information, contact Trina Flowers or Ruth Culver.

***The Nalacy Bailey Southeast District Regional Layman Workday will be at Rocky Head Missionary Baptist Church in Elba on Saturday, Feb. 12, at 10 a.m. The sermon will be offered by Pastor A.R. Williams.

***Sylvester Smith
A Visible Community Worker, Educator, Officerholder and Lawyer Sylvester Smith was born May 16,

1950 in Selma, Ala. He and his wife, Roseline Woodson, have one son, Sylvester Jr.

Mr. Smith graduated from R.B. Hudson High School in Selma in 1968. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in psychology from Troy State University Montgomery (TSUM) in 1976. His Master of Science degree in criminal justice from TSUM in 1977. His EDS completed all courses except his thesis in counseling and human development from TSUM in 1978-79. His CPM, Certified Public Managers Program from Auburn University of Montgomery in 1993. JD from Jones School of Law in Montgomery in 1996, and License to Practice Law (Supreme Court of Alabama and U.S. Middle District Court of Alabama).

Mr. Smith's work experience has included: A year tour of duty in the Republic of South Vietnam for the U.S. Marine Corps from 1968-69; Child Support Worker for the Montgomery County Department of Human Resources from 1977-82; Civil Rights Analyst for the Alabama Department of Human Resources from 1982-95; and Director, Office of Civil Rights and Equal Employment Opportunity for the Alabama Department of Human Resources from 1995-Present.

Mr. Smith is also very involved in his community. Some of his community ties include: member of St. Jude Catholic Church, member of the American Bar Association, member of the Alabama Head Injury Task Force Advisory Board, former group leader with the church's renewal program, instructor with the church's religious education program, member of the church's Parish Council, former coach of St. Jude elementary basketball, Southwestern Dixie Youth Baseball and Cleveland Avenue YMCA Football program; former member of St. Jude Educational Institute School Board, former member and president of the Montgomery Area Catholic Social Justice Commission, member of Disabled American Veterans, member of English Village and Southlawn Community Organization, former member of the Montgomery Parks and Recreation Athletic Board and former volunteer counselor of Brantwood Children's Home (1975-77).

Mr. Smith also has been the recipient of several awards and medals. They include: Military Bronze Star, Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V", RNV Cross of Gallantry, Vietnam Service Medal, Civilian - Montgomery YMCA Youth Football, Bellingham Dixie Youth Baseball, Maxwell Air Force Base Youth Basketball, St. Jude Elementary School Athletic Parents and Teachers Program, English Village and Southlawn Community Organization, Boys and Girls Clubs of Montgomery, Inc., Montgomery District 5 City Council, Alabama Military Department, Alabama State University.

God Bless Mr. Smith - Eria

***Youth Need to Know: African American History February is Black History Month! Today is a good day, be grateful!

Eria

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God Bless Mr. Smith - Eria

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LIFESTYLES

Christensen-Ayer wedding planned for March 4th in Enterprise



Miss Christensen & Mr. Ayer

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Thomas Christensen of Enterprise announce the engagement of their daughter, Julie Eileen, to Todd William Ayer, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Preston Ayer of Enterprise.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. William Jackson Langley Jr. of Anchorage, Alaska, and Mrs. Olive Inez Christensen and the late Mr. Stanley O. Christensen of Daleville.

Miss Christensen is a 1993 graduate of Enterprise High School and attended ESIC. She plans to attend Troy State Dobson to finish with a degree in accounting. She currently is employed in Enterprise.

The future bridegroom is the grandson of the late Mr. and Mrs. Burton Ayer of West Chazy, N.Y., and Mr. Louis Burrington of St. Johnsbury, Vt., and the late Mr. Bruce Chapman.

Mr. Ayer is a 1989 graduate of Pope High School in Marietta, Ga. and attended ESIC. He currently is employed in Elba.

The wedding is planned for March 4, 2000 at 3 p.m. at Greenhill Presbyterian Church in Enterprise. A reception will follow at the Ramada Inn in Enterprise.

Happy Valentine's Day

Bridal Registry

• Crystal stemwear
• China
• Flatware

Bradley Florist & Gift
897-3422

Adult CPR and First Aid Courses to be held

The American Red Cross will be holding an Adult CPR Course on Tuesday, Feb. 15, from 5:30-9:30 p.m. The American Red Cross will also be holding a First Aid Basics Course on Thursday, Feb. 17, from 5:30-9:30 p.m. The cost for each class is \$30. The location for the courses is the American Red Cross Coffee County Chapter office in the Enterprise Civic Center, 711 W. Crawford Street, Enterprise. To register, call the Coffee County Chapter Office at 347-2461.



Kimberly Ward

Kimberly Ward receives scholarship to UWA

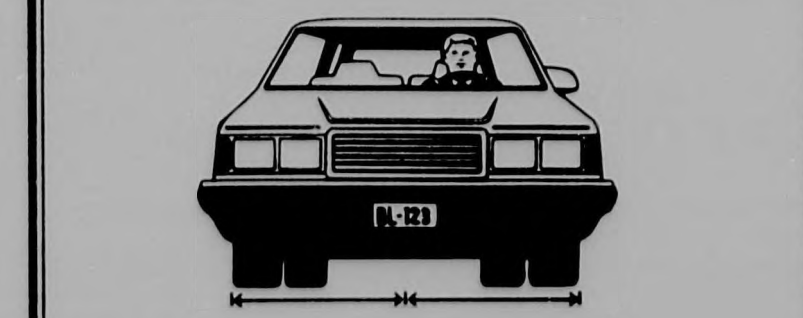
Kimberly Wynn Ward of Elba has been selected to receive an Academic Scholarship from The University of West Alabama according to a recent announcement by the UWA Office of Admissions.

The scholarship was awarded to Ward for outstanding academic achievement and leadership potential. The award is a four-year scholarship to the University of West Alabama.

Ward is currently a senior at Elba High School and plans to enter UWA in the fall semester of 2000.

Jimmie Zeb Scott invites you to his 90th Birthday Reception Saturday, Feb. 12, 2000 2:00-3:30 p.m. 1112 Pine Circle (Brookdale) Casual Dress

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Gentlemen! Don't forget your special VALENTINE on FEBRUARY 14th!!!

I can arrange a beautiful basket with flowers, chocolates, teddy bears, balloons, picture frames, candles, etc. along with a Mary Kay gift certificate, fragrance, or bath and beauty products. You choose the items that you would like to include in your Valentine's unique gift package. Prices start at \$30. Call today!

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Moses & Katie Lee

Lee family celebrates two special birthdays

Katie Lee celebrated her third birthday on Nov. 23, 1999. Moses Lee celebrated his eighth birthday on Dec. 3, 1999.

Katie and Moses are the children of Vaughn and Angie Lee of Lubbock, Texas. They are the grandchildren of Mrs. Bessie Cobb of Mobile, Ala. and Mrs. Mable Lee of Elba.

The wedding is planned for March 4, 2000 at 3 p.m. at Greenhill Presbyterian Church in Enterprise. A reception will follow at the Ramada Inn in Enterprise.

Valentine Sweetheart Pageant planned for February 12th

The 2000 Valentine Sweetheart Pageant will be held Saturday, Feb. 12, at Elba Elementary School. The pageant is being sponsored by Elba Masonic Lodge #170, with proceeds to be used for Lodge projects and charities.

Admission will be \$3.00 per person at the door.

On The Sq. Elba 897-8591

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New Arrival

GAPPA HUDSON WISE

Gappa and Mona Wise are the proud parents of a son, Gappa Hudson Wise. He weighed 8 lbs. 1 ounce and was 22 inches long.

Proud grandparents are the late James J. Wise of Elba, Robin Earl and Shirley Morgan of Enterprise and Dwight and Carolyn Kelley of Elba.

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SCHOOLS

American Cancer Society Visits Junior & Senior Girls

by Kayla Eddins
Mrs. Lucille Latham and Mrs. Pam Anderson from the American Cancer Society recently presented a program on self-examination to the Junior and Senior girls. Mrs. Latham is from the American Cancer Society and is also a two-time Cancer survivor. Mrs. Anderson is a member of the board for the Relay for Life, which is sponsored by the American Cancer Society.

Mrs. Latham discussed the importance of teenage girls starting now in the prevention of breast cancer. She used several small models to demonstrate how to do a monthly BSE (Breast Self-Examination). A video was shown and important information was presented about breast cancer. Mrs. Anderson also reminded the girls that the Relay for Life is open to anyone who wishes to attend. It will be held April 28, 2000.

I personally feel that this program, which is planned to continue from year to year, is very important. Too often, women in general, are unaware of the seriousness of this life-threatening disease. And many times, when people do get educated about breast cancer, or any type of cancer, it is already too late. This is the second year that this program has been presented at Zion Chapel, and I do hope that it has affected many lives. After seeing both my mother and my aunt cope with this disease less than a year ago, it has made me realize the seriousness of cancer. However, watching the recovery of both my mother and my aunt has made me see that there is hope. Early detection saves lives.

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Zion Chapel High School
REBEL NEWS
Rachel Bryan, Sponsor

ZC CAMPUS SWEETHEARTS

by Daphne Jinright

The Zion Chapel Annual Staff held their annual Campus Beauty Pageant January 29, 2000. There were originally four divisions but only two contestants wanted to enter one category. They were given the option of getting their money back, competing with tenth and eleventh graders, or be named Campus Sweethearts and not compete. They both chose to be named Campus Sweethearts and not compete, although they did participate like all the other contestants.

One of the Campus Sweethearts is Nicole Brown, who is 13 and is in the seventh grade. She is the daughter of Tony and Kathy Brown. The second Campus Sweetheart is Kayla Lashee Freeman, who is 15 and in the ninth grade. Kayla is the daughter of Theresa Willoughby.



NICOLE BROWN

They, as well as all the participants in the pageant, were asked three questions. The first was "What is your most memorable high school experience?" Nicole said that since she was only in the seventh grade, she had not had many high school experiences. However, one of her memorable experiences was going with the Middle School Beta Club on an overnight field trip to Chattanooga, Tenn. last year. They saw many interesting places and had time to hang out with their friends. Kayla's reply was that her most memorable experiences have been

the trips that she's made as a member of the band. She says that she has had the best time with her friends making these trips.



KAYLA FREEMAN

The second question was "Who is the person that you would most like to meet?" Nicole's reply was that she would like to meet Kate Boyd who is a senior at Enterprise High School, who was just named Alabama Junior Miss. She has also been named National Cheerleader. Nicole says that she's in dancing and has been all her life. She would like to know how Kate schedules her time to continue her dancing, keep her grade point average up, participate in many school organizations, clubs, church, and maintain her social life. Kayla said that she would most like to meet R.L. Stine because he is her favorite author and because he has inspired her to become an author.

The third question was "What are your plans for the future?" Nicole said that she has always loved animals and has always wanted to be a veterinarian, however she loves dancing and might want to do something in entertainment. She has just been cast in the Troy State University's spring musical, "A Chorus Line." She also participates in the youth choir at Zion Chapel Baptist Church and all the youth musicals. She's a member of the Junior Beta Club and the Middle School SGA. Kayla said that her goals are multifaceted because she would either like to be a writer, a chef, a food critic, or an archeologist, if she could go to Egypt. She said that she could combine writing with any of her career favorites.

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ZC Reception Held For School Board Members

The members of the Coffee County Board of Education were honored during School Board Month (January) at a reception/luncheon held in the Home Economic Department at Zion Chapel.

The luncheon was sponsored by the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCCLA).

The menu included baked ham, squash casserole, green bean casserole, mandarin orange salad, butter beans, rolls, red velvet cake, lemon pie, tea, and coffee.

After the guests were finished eating, leaders from the various campus organizations came to the Home Ec. Department to greet the



luncheon guests. One organization, FFA, sent its officers to the meeting in their official dress. Those pictured are Mr. Rodger Bowden, superintendent, Heather Arnold, Charles Spears, Pam Cotton, Mr. Charles Walker, Dr. Linda Ingram, Dan Johnson, Wesley Bragg, David Eddins, and Justin Prescott.

Anatomy: Dissecting Cats - Good Or Bad?!

by Ceretha Towles & Jessica Kelley

Dissecting cats is a unique high school experience enjoyed only by the few! To enhance and reinforce their study of muscles, the members of the Anatomy class are dissecting cats. The class members work in pairs, and each pair has their own cat.

Since this is such a unique high school experience, each class member was asked to render an opinion. Those opinions are presented as follows.

I think dissecting cats is a good experience. It is fun, but it can aggravate your sinuses.—Matt Nelson

It's cool.—Rebecca Kidd
I'm all for dissecting cats if it is the type of activity that you are interested in. I agree that it is easier for kids to learn from hands on experience than from textbooks. I do not believe that all students should be required to participate. I think an alternative assignment should be made.—Tara Grant

I think that dissecting cats certainly gives us a hands on experience, but having to look at a kitty-cat like that is hard for me to do. It hasn't been one of my most pleasant experiences, with the smell and everything, but it is one I won't soon forget. I'll never look at my cats the same again.—Ceretha Towles

I like dissecting things and the cats further my learning to help in my career. It is really fun even though it stinks.—Dan Johnson
I feel that dissecting in Anatomy has been a valuable learning experience for me. I plan to go to medical school after college and become a doctor so this unique teaching method has helped very much.—Morgan Hodge

I DISAGREE with the class experiment of dissecting cats. I believe it would be a good project for college students who wish to pursue a medical degree, but as a high school course, it is unnecessary. Since all students are not interested or intrigued by it. Personally, since I have a deep love for cats, it breaks my heart to see it. Frogs and worms are fine to dissect. They don't sleep at the end of your bed or lay on the couch beside you while your watching a movie.—Jessica Kelley

I believe that the dissecting of cats, in Anatomy class, is a great opportunity for us to learn first hand about the different muscles

and organs in the body.—Lashell Marler

I enjoy dissecting the cats. I feel I learn more about the muscles by being able to actually see them in life and not a picture in the book. I can tolerate the smell if it's keeping me from doing "book work"—Jill Jinright

I feel that dissecting cats allows other students, as well as myself, to learn more about the animal than any textbook could teach us. I think that it is a positive activity that should continue each year.—Kayla Eddins

I think dissecting Fluffy is a great idea. It's a great hands on experience for everyone, especially for those who, like myself, plan to go into the medical field. I just wish mine and Rebecca's cat wasn't so fat.—Stacey Cape

I think that it's a good idea for people that are going in the medical field. Even though the smell is

awful and almost made me sick the first day, I guess it will be o.k., since it's not inhuman or anything, plus we get a grade for it.—Daphne Jinright

Mrs. Jackie Jinright, class instructor, said, "Dissecting cats is one of the most fun activities in anatomy. Cat structure is very similar to that of a human. At the Science Expo at TSU recently, I had an opportunity to discuss the cat dissection with the director of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. She was in favor of using the cats for this purpose. She said that at least they were not rotting because the road after being hit by a vehicle or being simply dumped in a landfill after being put down. (Our cats are from the Humane Society. They are not raised for this—they are just a product of people not getting their own animals spayed or neutered.)"

attending AMEA every year," said Mr. Bird. "It is where all the big decisions are made regarding the organization of bands in Alabama. If you are a band director or music teacher and miss AMEA, you never know or understand what is happening in the state of Alabama pertaining to music."

Music Educators Convention Held

by Stacey Cape
Music educators from all over the State of Alabama attended a convention held on the campus of the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa in January for the Alabama Music Educators Association State Convention. The music education association encompasses several organizations, including the Alabama Bandmasters Association (ABA), the Alabama Vocal Association (AVA), and the Alabama Orchestra Association (AOA).

The convention's highlights included clinics by nationally renowned trumpet performer Allen Vizzutti, whose most recent accomplishment was playing lead trumpet on the soundtrack for Star Trek: Col. John R. Bourgeois, former conductor of the United States "President's Own" Marine Band, and the Fairhope High School Band, Austin High School Band, and the University of Alabama Wind Ensemble.

At the Paul Bryant Convention Center, there were plenty of exhibitors to be found. A very large room was filled to capacity with booths and exhibits featuring every possible musical product. Michael Bird, band director at Zion Chapel, attended this convention for the fifth time. "I can't imagine not

attending AMEA every year," said Mr. Bird. "It is where all the big decisions are made regarding the organization of bands in Alabama. If you are a band director or music teacher and miss AMEA, you never know or understand what is happening in the state of Alabama pertaining to music."

Band Director has January Wedding

Mr. Michael Bird, band director and music teacher at Zion Chapel School, recently married longtime friend Miss Sena Thibodeaux, formerly of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Miss Thibodeaux has been a featured trumpet soloist with the Troy State University "Sound of the South" band for the past three years and was picked for the Disney Collegiate All-Star Band in Orlando this summer. Over 800 trumpeters tried out, five were picked, and she came in fourth! Sena is a senior music education major at TSU.

The two met in 1995 when Mr. Bird was Band Captain at Troy State. Through the years, they remained friends and when Mr. Bird moved back to this area after two years teaching in Monroe County, he and Miss Thibodeaux were soon engaged to be married. Bird, band director at Zion Chapel, attended this convention for the fifth time. "I can't imagine not

Coffee County Schools Menu February 14 - 18, 2000

BREAKFAST

Monday - Pancake, Syrup, Sausage Patty, Cereal, Juice, Milk
Tuesday - Cheese Toast, Cereal, Juice, Milk
Wednesday - Scrambled Eggs, Toast, Jelly, Cereal, Juice, Milk
Thursday - Muffins, Cereal, Juice, Milk
Friday - Fruit Pastry, Cereal, Juice, Milk

LUNCH

Monday - Fish Nuggets, Natcho & Cheese, Breaded Okra, Whole Potatoes, Apple, Hushpuppies, Sugar Cookie, Milk
Tuesday - Corn Dog, Turkey Hoagie, English Peas, French Fries, Apple Crisp, Fruit, Milk
Wednesday - Spaghetti, Chicken Nuggets, Green Salad, Corn on Cob, Fruit, Cheese Rolls, Milk
Thursday - Chicken Pot Pie, Turkey Strips, Corn Nuggets, Fruit, Butterbeans, Crackers, Chocolate Pudding, Milk
Friday - Hot Ham & Cheese Croissant, Turkey Roast, Mixed Vegetables, Scalloped Potatoes, Fruit, Rolls, Milk

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Time Is A Funny Thing

by Emilee Benbow

Time. Time is a very funny thing. It passes us by every minute of the day and seems to pass faster and faster with age. As I sit here now with only four months left until my high school graduation, I wonder where the years have gone. I can look back on these years, and each one is packed with memories. There are so many memories that it seems as though I have lived an entire lifetime instead of only seventeen years. I can remember all of the teachers I have had and the friends that have come and gone, as well as boyfriends. It seems close to impossible that I am almost through with this chapter of my life and will soon begin a new one.

I think I can speak for most of my classmates when I say that it was only yesterday that I was entering the doors of the Elementary School. I was a five-year-old child following my mother down to the hallway into a world that was scary and new. This world had unexpected turns and an unknown destination.

Now, the destination is in sight and I am torn by my feelings. Once, again, I am frightened, yet what I must now face, but this time there is no one to follow. I am an adult. I hold my own fate in my hands and must be careful to make the right choices. This is the freedom and responsibility that I have always wanted, but now that it is here, a part of me would like to give it back. I am an adult. There is no turning back. There is only the brightest and happiest future imaginable.

Each day that comes is gone more rapidly than the day before and brings with it new decisions and memories. I would like to tell everyone to treasure students and hold on to it as long as possible. In only a blink of an eye, this year will be the next and so on. As I begin this new walk down a new road of life, I know that I will be at the end before I am even out of breath. This thrills me, as well as saddens me, and I wonder where does time go?

TIGER BRIEFS

Heart to Heart
by Cammie Kelley

February 14 is Valentine's Day. It is the busiest day for florists all around the world. It is a day filled with flowers, candy, and sweetharts. However, many people in other countries do not celebrate Valentine's Day like people in the U.S. In Europe, people celebrate in many different ways. British children sing sweet songs and receive presents of money, fruit and candy. In certain areas of England, people bake Valentine buns filled with raisins and plums. Italians hold a huge Valentine feast. In Great Britain and Italy, single women wake before sunrise. They stand by the window waiting for their prince charming to pass. They believe that the first man they see, they will marry within a year. These are a few of the wonderful celebrations held around the world on Valentine's Day. The EHS Journalism staff hopes that everyone has a great Valentine's filled with love, happiness and lots of chocolate.

MU ALPHA THETA Gets T-shirts

by Kimberly Ward

Mu Alpha Theta is a math club for students grades ten through twelve at Elba High. Mrs. Sheila Johnson is the sponsor of the club. At the beginning of the school year, it was decided that t-shirts for the club would be ordered. This is the first time that shirts have been ordered for Mu Alpha Theta in several years. The shirts finally came in, and the students were excited. The shirts were red and had the official Mu Alpha Theta symbols and letters on the back. The members of Mu Alpha Theta wore their new shirts the next day to show off the long awaited arrivals. The new shirts not only showed the membership in the club but also pride in the schools as many clubs at Elba High do.

EHS Gets Computers

by Emilee Qualls

New tools of learning have been added to the Elba High School classrooms. Two computers, all with the Internet, have been installed in each classroom. These computers will be used for research papers and other materials students may need to further their education. These computers will certainly come in handy especially for the students who may not have access to the Internet at home. When asked how they feel about the Internet, the students all replied positively. Ben Purvis: "It is education at its finest." Colby Skinner: "I think it's a good idea because if a teacher can't answer a question, we can look it up." Nim Patel: "I think it's a great idea." Dianne Weston: "It is a good thing to have to learn more about the world." LaShonn Robinson: "It is good so that I won't have to go to the library."

SUPPORT YOUTH & EDUCATION ESJC NEWS

BOATING SAFETY...Safety is a major concern for boaters. Enterprise State Junior College presents a special interest course that will provide participants with information about boating safety in general as well as legal requirements for boating in Alabama. Information needed to pass the Alabama Certification Test for Boating Safety will also be provided. This test will be given on the last night of class.

Passing this test will provide participants with the certification to comply with the Alabama Boating Safety Reform Act of 1994 which went into full effect on April 28, 1999. The class meets 6-9 p.m. March 6-9, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. There is a \$10 fee for the course, and the registration deadline is Feb. 28.

COMPUTERS FOR SENIORS...a special interest class to work held at Enterprise State Junior College in a third session this spring semester. It is designed for older adults who want to be computer literate. Participants will learn to efficiently use a computer keyboard, how to use a word processing program, how to create a data base, and how to understand the use of spreadsheets. They should bring a 3 1/2" disk to the first class. There is a \$30 fee for this course, and the registration deadline is Feb. 28. Classes will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays, March 6-15, 2-4 p.m.

For more information on any of the above courses, call 393-ESJC, ext. 234.

SCHOOLS



Tiger Tales

Editors:
Kimberly Ward
&
Cammie Kelley

Teacher Spotlight

by Katie Vaughan

Elba High School would like to recognize a special person for the teacher spotlight this week. Mr. Lance McCollough is filling in for Mrs. Julie Norris because of her recent absence. He will be teaching Advanced Chemistry, Physical Science and will be temporarily sponsoring the journalism staff. Mr. McCollough graduated from Elba High School, and he attended Troy State University with a major in Physical Education. When asked what he likes best about Elba, he responded, "Everybody knows everybody, so everyone is nice and friendly."



Elba Elementary School Menu February 14 - 17, 2000

BREAKFAST

Monday - Cinnamon Toast, 1/2 Apple, Cereal, Juice, Milk
Tuesday - Pancakes, Syrup, Cereal, Juice, Milk
Wednesday - Biscuit & Jelly, Sausage, Cereal, Juice, Milk
Thursday - Cheese Grits, Toast & Jelly, Cereal, Juice, Milk

LUNCH

Monday - Chicken Fried Beef Patty, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Cupcake, Roll, Milk
Tuesday - Taco Salad, Corn on Cob, 1/2 Apple, Milk
Wednesday - Fried Chicken, Rice, English Peas, Roll, 1/2 Orange, Milk
Thursday - Pizza, Green Salad, Corn, Sliced Peaches, Milk

CLARIFICATION CLARIFICATION

It has come to our attention at The Elba Clipper that there was some confusion with the article and pictures concerning the "Top Ten" in last week's edition of the paper.

The order in which the pictures were placed on the page last week was not the order in which the young ladies rank in their class. Therefore, in an effort to clarify this, the following list is the ranking of the young ladies from first to tenth for the Class of 2000: 1. Shanna Tillis, 2. Vaughan Boyd, 3. Raean McCollough, 4. Leslie Stinson, 5. Kimberly Ward, 6. Natasha Bannin, 7. Emilee Benbow, 8. Linda Gideon, 9. Monique Ordon, 10. Melissa Grantham.

We apologize for any confusion our picture arrangement may have caused last week and applaud these young ladies for all their hard work and dedication. Congratulations!

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Kennedy-Lincoln Coincidence

by Amy Kirkland

During the month of February, two days are set aside to honor Presidents. February 12 celebrates Abraham Lincoln's birthday, and February 21 is President's day. Those who take the time to think about Lincoln might ponder on the Civil War, but many don't realize that there are several eerie coincidences between the lives of Lincoln and John F. Kennedy. They are as follows.

Two of Lincoln's sons were named Edward and Robert. Edward died at three. Robert lived on. Two of Kennedy's brothers were named Edward and Robert. Robert was assassinated, Edward lived on.

Lincoln was elected President in 1860. Kennedy in 1960.

Lincoln's secretary was named Kennedy, and Kennedy's secretary was named Lincoln.

Both Presidents were with their wives when assassinated, and both Presidents were shot in the back of the head.

Booth shot Lincoln while he was sitting in a theater, then Booth hid in a warehouse. Kennedy was shot from a warehouse. Oswald was found in a theater.

Booth and Oswald were both killed before they could be tried in a court of law.

Lincoln was succeeded by Andrew Johnson, who was born 1808. JFK was succeeded by Lyndon Johnson, who was born in 1908.

The names of Lincoln and Kennedy each contain 7 letters. Andrew Johnson and Lyndon Johnson have 13 letters. John Wilkes Booth and Lee Harvey Oswald each total 15 letters.

Math-A-Thon Nets \$2100 Plus

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital announced today the successful completion of Math-A-Thon at Elba Elementary School in Elba, Ala. Math-A-Thon, now in its 21st year, is an educationally based fund-raising program in which students obtain sponsors for the number of math problems completed in special workbooks provided for students in grades K-9. The program is sponsored nationally by Six Flags Theme Parks, who provide free passes to their parks for every student raising \$35 or more.

The students who participate in the program learn to do more than just math problems; they also learn the importance of helping children who are less fortunate than themselves. Through the Math-A-Thon, they are able to help provide a difference in the lives of children with cancer, and we can all feel proud of our response.

50 students participated and \$2180.13 was collected.

forms of pediatric cancer has risen dramatically. In fact, today more than 70% of all children with cancer will survive their bout with the disease. St. Jude fully credits these successes in treatment to the generous support of people around the world, including the students at Elba Elementary School.

"We are very proud of our students for working so hard on the Math-A-Thon," said Mrs. Dye, volunteer coordinator. "With their help, St. Jude Hospital will be able to create new treatments that may one day lead to a cure for many forms of cancer that will benefit the children of our state, our country, and around the world. I also want to extend our thanks to the Elba community for supporting our students. It takes all of us to make a difference in the lives of children with cancer, and we can all feel proud of our response."

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SPORTS

Views from....

THE PRESSBOX

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

Melanie celebrated her 11th birthday last week with a party, and the kids at the party all enjoyed dancing, playing basketball, playing football, talking and doing a lot of eating. She also got a lot of gifts that she was very proud of, but she was most proud to simply have some of her friends with her to share the night's excitement.

PASSING ON A FEW NOTES OF INTEREST...

*** The Elba Tigers had perhaps their biggest week of the basketball season last week as they posted an easy win over Samson at the Tiger gym on Monday, then hit the road Tuesday and Friday and came home with impressive road wins over 5A power Andalusia and 3A power Goshen. The wins improved the Tigers' record to 21-4 on the season, and once again proved to all area basketball fans that this year's Tigers are indeed one of the best teams around. The Tigers dozed for a half in the win over Samson and trailed by six points at the half, but woke up in the third quarter and sparked by the 41-point outburst of Tim Ware raced to the win. Elba's big win over Andalusia came as somewhat of a surprise, mainly because it is very rare that a team in any class goes into Andalusia and leaves with a win over the talented Bulldogs. The Tigers jumped ahead early against Andalusia; however, and were never really threatened as they posted the win. Friday night's win over Goshen was equally impressive as the Tigers posted a road win in a gym that rarely sees the visiting team escape with a W. The Tigers used a big third quarter to take the lead, then hit key free-throws down the stretch to hold on for the win. Elba's win bit the season is impressive, but not any more impressive than the play of the Tigers last week in Andalusia and Goshen. Great job, Tigers!

*** One thing that made last week's wins even more impressive was the fact the Tigers claimed the wins without the services of center Monroe Williams. Williams, a 6-4, 240-pounder, was shot the weekend before last outside the home of a relative, and although he was lucky that the bullet missed any bones and arteries, the wound still prevented the powerful Tiger from taking the court, and could very well sideline the senior for the remainder of the season. Williams was back at school late in the week, and whether he returns to the court or not, everyone surrounding Elba High School and Elba Tiger athletics is just glad the popular young man wasn't more seriously injured. Monroe has a long life ahead of him, both in and out of the athletic arena, and maybe what happened last week will one day be nothing more than another lesson learned along the way.

*** The Elba Lady Tigers won two games last week in three outings to improve their record for the season to 11-12. The Lady Tigers avenged a 24-point loss Monday night by defeating Samson, were simply no match for Andalusia in the middle of the week, then bounced back Friday night and whipped Goshen. The Lady Tigers have had one of their best seasons ever, and with only one senior on the entire roster, it looks like these brighter days ahead for the girls in years to come. One of the top performances last week was a 19-point night by junior Roshanda McKinnon in the win over Samson. McKinnon was the Lady Tigers' primary weapon in the win, and in the third quarter scored all eight of Elba's points. There is no doubt that McKinnon is the team leader, and it is good to know that she'll be around for another season.

*** I have made mention to Clayton High School in recent weeks and voiced my opinion about some of the problems Elba's basketball players, cheerleaders and fans have experienced this season at the Barbour County School. Last week a caller from Clayton, associated with the school, telephoned the *Clipper* office and accused me of being a "racist" for my use of the word "zoo" in describing what took place at the Clayton gym two weeks ago. The caller admitted that the problems addressed in the column did exist the night in question, but resented the word "zoo," and its racial implications (?). Everyone that knows me knows that I am not a racist, and that my opinions concerning Clayton High School were simply that, and were in no way intended to be a racial slur to anyone. My reference to the word zoo was nothing more than a reference to the wild things that took place at the gym on the night in question, and was taken completely out of context. The caller also asserted that the *Clipper* that there would be no such incidents when Elba played in Clayton in this week's Area 3 tournament, and before hanging up apologized for his personal comments about my racial beliefs. It is good to know that there are adults and students in Clayton that genuinely care about the image of their high school and their community. However, I still believe that the Elba Police Department should provide added protection for the students and fans, just in case someone who doesn't care about Clayton, or Elba, should decide to take matters into his own hands.

*** The area tournaments will be held this week all across the state, and after last week's games involving area teams, maybe it is time to step back and reevaluate the upcoming tournaments. New Brockton bounced back from its losses to Red Level and G.W. Long to post wins over Enterprise, Zion Chapel and Samson, and it looks like the Gamecocks are more than ready for the post-season party to begin. The Gamecocks' Kellen Cole has taken his game to another level in recent games, and his teammates have followed his lead and picked up their intensity. I still believe the Gamecocks will make it to regional play. Kinston posted two last-second wins last week over G.W. Long and Arton, and maybe next season Coach Gary Glass should just agree to play some games and then set the dates as the season rolls along. Both wins came in games that weren't even scheduled for the week, but were played after the opposing schools wanted to change dates. Don't look now, but the Bulldogs have grown some teeth, and could be a team to watch in the area. Zion Chapel battled New Brockton down to the wire last week up at the Rebel gym, and showed once again that with a few breaks the Rebels can compete with anyone around. It would still be a major upset for the Rebels to steal a win in an area that includes Florala, Houston Academy and G.W. Long, but one thing is for sure, Zion Chapel will show up and play to win for all four quarters. Brantley got shelved in its regular season finale by J.F. Shields, and while the Bulldogs won't face another team as talented as Shields in the area tournament, it exposed the fact that Brantley may not be as good as many think. I saw Brantley last week over in Opp, and while the Bulldogs are well coached and do have some very talented players, they are no longer feared by their opponents. It looks like a real dog fight for Brantley.

*** In closing, it was funny last week to read where wrestling guru Vince McMahon had announced plans to form the XFL football league in February of 2001. The XFL, which McMahon admitted doesn't stand for anything, will supposedly include pro football players and managers, and be a return to games played by "tough guys who played smash-mouth ball." All eight teams will be owned by the WWF, and sites for teams to play include the Los Angeles Coliseum, San Francisco's 3Com Park, the Orange Bowl in Miami, the Citrus Bowl in Orlando and RFK Stadium in Washington, D.C. McMahon made millions when he went public with his WWF stock last year, and I think that is what he hopes to do with the XFL. I could be wrong, but to borrow a quote from one of McMahon's wrestlers, I think I smell what McMahon is cooking.

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Ware scores season-high 41 points

Elba Tigers sweep Samson

The Elba Tigers hosted the Samson Tigers last Monday night and proved to be anything but gracious hosts as they swept past the visitors in all three games.

The Tigers staged a second half rally to win the varsity boys game 74-56, while the Lady Tigers led all the way to claim a 34-24 win, and the junior varsity boys spotted Samson an early lead and then rallied to post a 43-31 win.

Following are highlights of all three Elba wins:

VARSITY BOYS:

ELBA 74

SAMSON 56

The Elba Tigers used a big third quarter to grab the lead and then pulled away to down the pesky Samson Tigers 74-56, last Monday night, in Elba.

The Tigers came out uninspired against their 2A opponent, and Samson took advantage of a sluggish Elba zone defense to connect on three three-pointers to take an 11-8 lead with 4:10 left in the opening stanza. Samson out hustled the Tigers throughout the quarter on both ends of the court, and by the end of the quarter held a surprising 15-9 advantage.

Samson increased its lead to 17-9 early in the second quarter and appeared ready to pull away from the highly-ranked Tigers. However, Wayne Reed hit two long jumpers to end the Samson streak, and when Tim Ware scored six straight points from inside the Samson defense, the Tigers had erased the Samson lead and pulled even at 19-19.

Elba took its first lead since early in the game when Tim Ware hit a short jumper to put the Tigers on top 23-22 with 1:59 left in the half, but Samson refused to quit and scored the final seven points of the half to go in at halftime with a 31-26 advantage.

Elba opened the third quarter in aggressive full-court press and scored six quick points off Samson turnovers to jump back ahead 32-31 with 6:37 left in the stanza. Samson regained the lead briefly at 35-32 with 4:50 remaining in the quarter, but the Tigers answered with a 6-0 run and moved ahead 38-35 with 3:51 left in the quarter on a dunk by Tim Ware.

Samson rallied again and pulled even at 38-38 with 3:20 left on the clock. However, this time the Tigers, sparked by a three-pointer by Sammy Hill and a scoring dunk by Tim Ware, went on a 10-0 run and moved ahead 48-38 with 2:30 still left in the wild third quarter.

Elba carried a 49-43 lead into the

final stanza after another mild Samson rally, and saw Samson cut the lead to 49-46 with 7:22 left in the game. That was as close as the visitors would get for quite a while; however, as Tim Ware scored from in close and behind the three-point arc, and scored time of the Tigers' next 16 points during a big 16-0 spurt as Elba put the game away by taking a 65-46 lead with 4:43 remaining in the stanza!

Elba took its biggest lead of the night at 74-50 with 1:25 left on a Ware free-throw, and then let the reserves mop things up as the Tigers posted the 74-56 win.

Tim Ware scored a season-high 41 points to lead Elba, while Wayne Reed added 24. Samson was led by Alphonso Reeves with 16 points.

E 9 17 23 25 - 74
S 15 16 11 11 - 56

Elba (74): Hill 16, Lawford 2, Reed 24, Salter 1, Ware 41. Samson (56): Davis 2, Gilmore 8, Bess 12, Baldwin 10, Peacock 8, Reeves 16.

VARSITY GIRLS:

ELBA 34

SAMSON 24

The Elba Lady Tigers avenged 60-one of its worst losses of the season last Monday night by claiming an impressive 34-24 win over the Samson Lady Tigers, in Elba.

The Lady Tigers came out using a deliberate style on offense against the talented visitors from Geneva County, and the move paid off as Elba moved ahead 5-2 early behind the inside scoring of Roshanda McKinnon and Rachel Bludworth.

Samson cut the lead to 9-8 by the end of the opening quarter, but the Lady Tigers scored the first two baskets of the second quarter to grab a 13-8 lead with 5:31 left in the half, and despite scoring only two points the remainder of the quarter, Elba remained in command and went in at intermission with a 15-10 lead.

Elba's lead went to 17-10 with 7:47 left in the third quarter on a short jumper by Roshanda McKinnon, and McKinnon scored all eight of the Lady Tigers' points in the stanza as they carried a 23-16 advantage into the final quarter of play!

The Lady Tigers took their biggest lead of the night at 29-16 with 5:41 left on the clock after buckets by McKinnon and Bludworth, but saw Samson score six straight points to cut the lead to 29-22 with 2:55 remaining in the game.

Elba (34): Mack 9, McKinnon 19, Bludworth 6. Samson (24): King 2, Rials 4, White 6, Bess 10, Simmons 2.

JUNIOR VARSITY BOYS

ELBA 43

SAMSON 31

The Elba B team Tigers spotted Samson an early 10-2 lead and then came storming back to post a big

quarter hitting 15 of 20 free-throw chances, and held off the Eagles late to claim the impressive 60-48 road win.

Elba (60): Hill 12, Lawford 5, Reed 9, Salter 5, Dubose 2, Ware 25. Goshen (48): Berry 2, Darby 5, Pelton 2, Rogers 21, Tucker 15, Simmons 4.

E 14 16 24 - 60
G 10 14 11 13 - 48

Elba (60): Hill 12, Lawford 5, Reed 9, Salter 5, Dubose 2, Ware 25. Goshen (48): Berry 2, Darby 5, Pelton 2, Rogers 21, Tucker 15, Simmons 4.

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Elba's Tim Ware (42) prepares to come back down to earth after a slam dunk in the Tigers' win last week over Samson. Ware scored 41 points to lead the Tigers to the win, and later scored 25 points against Andalusia and Goshen as Elba upped its record to 21-4 on the season.

LaGina Mack hit two free-throws with 1:56 left to end the four-minute Elba scoring drought and increase the lead to 31-22, and the Lady Tigers easily held on to claim the 34-24 win.

Roshanda McKinnon poured in 19 points to lead Elba, while Sacca Bess led Samson with 10.

E 9 6 8 11 - 34
S 8 2 6 8 - 24

Elba (34): Mack 9, McKinnon 19, Bludworth 6. Samson (24): King 2, Rials 4, White 6, Bess 10, Simmons 2.

Elba (43): Daniels 6, English 17, Curran 6, Henderson 4, Andrews 10.

Samson (31): Hill 6, Davis 11, Tinsley 6, Thomas 6, Smith 2.

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SPORTS

Celtics and Cavs continue to lead the way in Youth Basketball League action

The Elba Youth Basketball League continued its season last week with plenty of action in each and every game. Following are highlights of the games played in each of the six age divisions.

12 AND UNDER GIRLS

*** SPARKS 6 SHOCK 4 - The Sparks pulled ahead in the fourth quarter and held on to down the Shock 6-4. The Sparks owned a slim 2-1 lead after three quarters, but held on to post the win. Becky Stinson scored 6 points to lead the Sparks, while scoring for the Shock were Elena McCormick 3 and Shawanna Wright 1.

12 AND UNDER BOYS

*** MAGIC 26 CLIPPERS 20 - The Magic staged a furious second half rally to defeat the Clippers 26-20. The Magic trailed 9-8 at the half, but outscored the Clippers 11-2 in the third quarter to grab the lead and rolled to the win. Scoring for the Magic were Lewis Johnson 11, LaRay Williams 5, William Carpenter 4, Mason Guiley 4 and Duke Carr 2. Scoring for the Clippers were Stefan Burks 8, Ron Hill 4, Reynar Rogers 4 and Andrew Stoudemire 4.

*** MAGIC 31 OPP 20 - The Magic pulled ahead early and never looked back in a 31-20 win over Opp. The Magic pulled out to a 16-6 halftime advantage and rolled to the big win. Scoring for the Magic were LaRay Williams 7, Lewis Johnson 6, William Carpenter 6, Duke Carr 5, Lamar Ware 5 and Mason Guiley 2. Scoring for Opp were Rhett Barnes 4, Stephen Hartzog 4, Andrew Showalter 4, Marcus Hines 2, Donnie Bryant 2, Cory Cain 2 and Chris Madden 2.

10 AND UNDER GIRLS

*** MYSTICS 18 OPP 17 - The Mystics pulled ahead early and held on late to edge past Opp 17-17. The Mystics pulled out to an 8-3 halftime lead and held on late to escape with the exciting win. Scoring for the Mystics were Whitney Sasser 11, Krysten Parker 5 and Chessie Cross 2. Scoring for Opp were Kasi Cravey 9, Adrianna Schofield 4 and Brittany Williams 4.

*** ROCKERS 12 MYSTICS 4 - The Rockers led all the way to down the Mystics 12-4. The Rockers jumped out to an 8-2 third quarter lead and rolled to the win. Scoring for the Rockers were Brittany Caldwell 4, Brandy Caldwell 2, Tiffany Johnson 2, Sydney Brunson 2 and Hannah Manning 2. Scoring for the Mystics were Chessie Cross 2 and Ashley Carpenter 2.

10 AND UNDER BOYS

*** NETS 18 LAKERS 17 - The Nets outscored the Lakers 5-4 in overtime to post an exciting 17-17 win over the Lakers. The Lakers owned an 8-4 halftime lead and led 12-10 heading into the final stanza, only to see the Nets rally to send the game into overtime and then pull out the win. Scoring for the Nets were Rob Sanders 8, Aaron Jacobs 7 and John Moss 3. Scoring for the Lakers were Aaron Harnelsson 6, Antwon Tills 5, Chris Luckenbaugh 2, Justin Hammond 2 and Quentin Caldwell 2.

GIRLS 8 AND UNDER

Community News

Don't forget...Valentine's Day is Feb. 14th!

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New Listing - Country Home
W/3BR - Central H & C - Pecan
Trees - New 10x20 Storage
Bldg. 12AC +/- \$43,500



1133 Neil Grantham Drive -
3BR - 1B. Alum. Siding - Nice
Starter or Retirement Home
\$34,900



New Listing - 333 Plant Ave.
3BR - 2B. Brick - Home
Remodeled In 1998 - Central
Heating & Cooling \$48,000



976 Sunset Blvd. - 3BR - 2B.
Brick - Storage Bldgs. Quiet
Neighborhood \$39,900



993 Winston Street - 1,904
Sq. Ft. 3-BR 3-B Double
Garage & Deck - 15x30 Storage
Bldg. \$84,900



Co. Rd. 349 - 1991 Liberty
14x70 Mobile Home On 1/2 AC
Lot 3BR-1Bath \$19,500



6 AC +/- On Al Hwy. 167 In Vic-
toria Community - 1991 14x80
Mobile Home - 3BR/2Baths
Large Front Porch
Creek on Property \$69,900



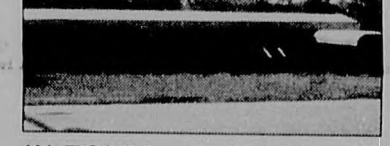
INVESTMENT PROPERTY - 8
Rental Units With Potential
Income Of \$2,300 per Month
\$224,900



TO BE MOVED - 1998 Sun-
shine Mobile Home 16x80 All
Electric - Deck - Like New
\$17,900



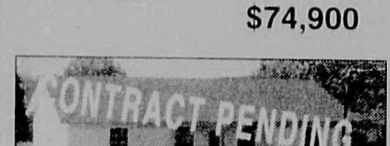
COUNTRY HOME - 2 BR
Home on 7.5 AC Located on
Co. Rd. 239 \$74,900



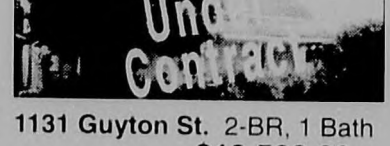
IN TOWN 1989 3BR, 2B
Mobile Home on Cedar Lane
Dr. 100x200 Lot. 20x40 shop.
\$27,900



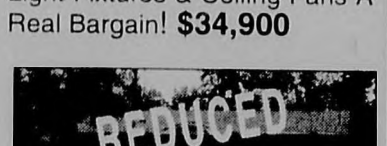
COUNTRY HOME - On 1
AC +/- Completely Remodeled
Brick 2BR - 1B. Freshly Painted
Interior - New Carpet, Vinyl,
Light Fixtures & Ceiling Fans A
Real Bargain! \$34,900



NEW HOME - On 5.5 AC Just
Outside Elba City Limits. 3BR -
2Bw/Ceramic Tile. Walk-In
Master Closet. Beautiful White
Cabinets.



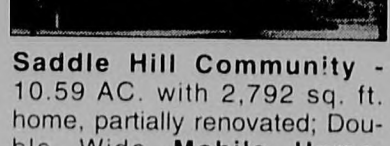
Saddle Hill Community -
10.59 AC with 2,792 sq. ft.
home, partially renovated; Dou-
ble Wide Mobile Home.



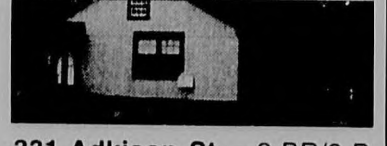
2351 HICKMAN AVE. 1470
sq. ft. Brick House. Nice Stor-
age Bldg. This property is
immaculate! \$57,900.00
\$49,900.00



1.97 AC +/- 24 ft. x 60 ft. Dou-
blewide w/Deck. Stocked Fish
Pond. Located Inside Elba City
Limits \$29,900.00
\$26,800.00



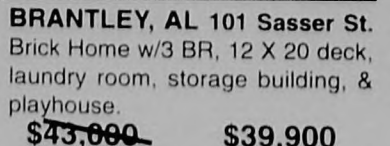
BRANTLEY, AL 101 Sasser St.
Brick Home w/3 BR, 12 X 20 deck,
laundry room, storage building, &
playhouse \$43,900 \$39,900



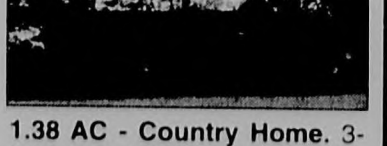
331 Adkison St. - 3-BR/2-B
Home. Central H&C. Insulated
Windows. Recently remod-
eled. Partial owner financing
available. Lot size 80' x 190'
\$37,500.00



1077 Sunset Blvd. 1,131 Sq.
Ft. 2 BR - 2 Baths Totally Ren-
ovated - 100 x 200 Lot - Two-
car garage. \$47,900.00 \$42,900.00



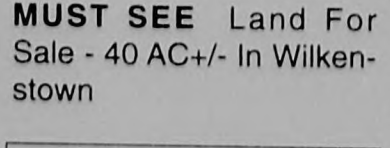
CO. RD. 239. 61 A - 27 AC
Pasture/34 AC Planted Pines -
1 AC Pond. \$98,500



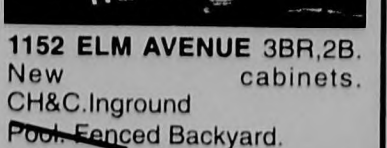
1.38 AC - Country Home. 3-
BR, 2-B. Fenced Play Yard.
Shop Building. Just outside
city limits. \$54,900



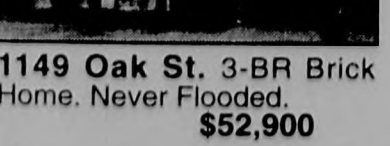
In Town - 703 Plant Ave S. - 3-
Br, 1-Bath. \$37,500



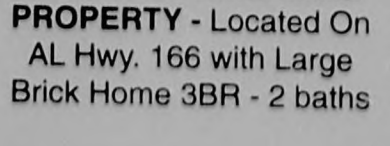
LOT AT GANTT
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Elba High students shadow local business folks on Groundhog Day

by Linda Hodge, Staff Writer

On Wednesday, Feb. 2, the "ole groundhog made his yearly appearance to see if he could see his shadow, and it just so happens that he was not the only one seeing double that day.

54 Elba High School students played the part of shadow on Feb. 2 as they participated in the Groundhog Day Job Shadowing Program sponsored in conjunction by the school and the Tech Prep Program at MacArthur State Technical College in Opp.

"I think this is really good for the students," said Donna Stokes, tech program specialist at MacArthur State Technical College. "It is an eye-opening experience where the students actually get to go out in the 'real world' and see first hand how the jobs are done."

Stokes said this is a good way for the students to have an opportunity to see if a particular career is indeed the one they would like to pursue after high school.

"They (the students) all learned so much, and I have only heard good things," she said.

This is the third year in which the job shadowing program has been unified, and Stokes said Elba High School has participated all three years. Students in grades 9-12 were able to participate in this year's program, and had a wide range of jobs to choose from for their shadowing project. According to Stokes, there were 28 different businesses or schools that participated.

"I heard stories of the students going up to their principal, Danny Weeks, and telling him about what they learned and how fun it was," said Stokes.

She also said they were especially excited about the success of this year's program after a lawyer from a firm that participated called to brag on the students and to say how important he thinks the program is for the students and the area businesses.

For now, the good "ole groundhog and the student shadows have returned to their usual habitat, but Stokes said they are already looking forward to next year's job shadowing.



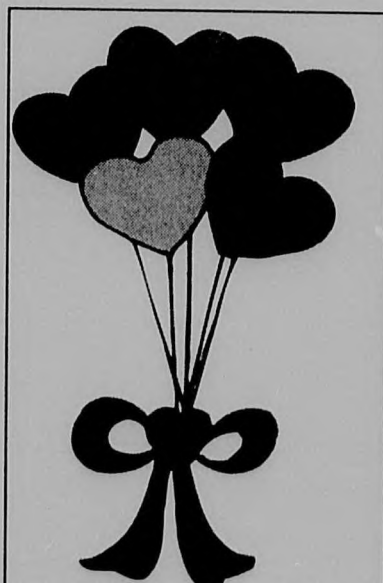
SHANNA TILLIS, a senior at Elba High School, learns all about insurance procedures from Bob Robertson, pharmacist at Medical Arts Pharmacy, during the Groundhog Day Job Shadowing on Feb. 2.



DEANN SMITH, a ninth grader at Elba High School, gets a close look at Dr. Timothy Jackson and his nurse complete a dental procedure to a patient last Wednesday. Smith said dentistry is one of the careers she is considering for her future, and she was glad to be able to get a first hand look at the field.

2000 Wiregrass Cotton Expo planned for February 12

The 2000 Wiregrass Cotton Expo will be Saturday, Feb. 12, at the Alabama Civic Center in Ozark, starting with registration at 8 a.m. and continuing until 3 p.m. There will be a sponsored dinner, door prizes and cotton exhibits.



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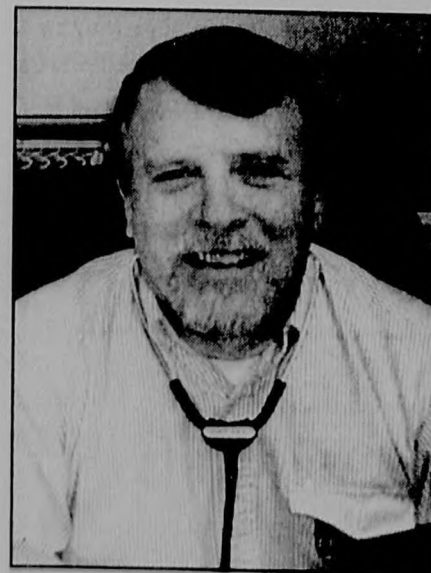
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Dr. Andrew Dow

Farm News



THE
LOWDOWN ON
HOME
GARDENING
With Bernie Cobb
Gardening Columnist

THE LOWDOWN ON SITE PREPARATION

Although each step in gardening is important, probably the most critical step you will take in starting your new Y2K garden is site preparation. And it only seems fair that it takes the greatest amount of energy. That is, if you do it yourself.

You can do it as a labor of love and retain bragging rights, or you can just borrow a friend's big tiller. Or, ask someone like my friend Charlie Hiers to help you out. You can ease the sweat and toil level as much as you care. Personally, I prefer to sweat and get dirty — yes, and then brag about my garden.

If you've never had your soil analyzed, do that now. You can do the other work while you're waiting for the report to come back. Pick up a Soil Sample Kit at the Coffee County Extension Office or a local seed store. The current cost is just \$7.00.

After you send in your sample, according to directions in the kit, measure and stake out your garden site. The size and shape is up to you, of course, but most people seem to like a neat, orderly rectangular garden with 50' to 100' rows. Most directions for planting are based on an acre or a 100' row, so it's easy to compute quantities when ordering seed, lime or fertilizer.

Get to work next on turning over your soil. You can do it very simply with a shovel. For you "first-timers," just stick it in the ground, lift out a big clod of turf, and turn it upside down right back in the same hole. It might not take you long to realize that for your size garden you might need to lease or buy a tiller.

If you really want wild laying out

a big garden, you might need to seek out a Site Preparation, add 1 friend with a tractor like Charlie's or hire someone to break up the ground for you. They can do in a few minutes what it might take you all day to do. Remember, you are only going to do it once this year on that particular site. What ever your choice, do it right.

Your plants want an even-textured, friable soil, free of rocks and big clods of earth. So, re-work the soil as much as you need to with your spade, your tiller, or that friend's tractor to get a good texture. Build up areas of poor drainage.

When your soil sample comes back, follow the directions carefully. It will tell you whether you need to apply lime and how much. It will tell you what the pH (acidity level) of your soil is. That should be between 6.0 and 6.8 for an all-purpose vegetable garden. It also tells you what type of fertilizer you'll need and how much per acre or per 100' row to spread. Don't panic. It's easy to understand and easy to do.

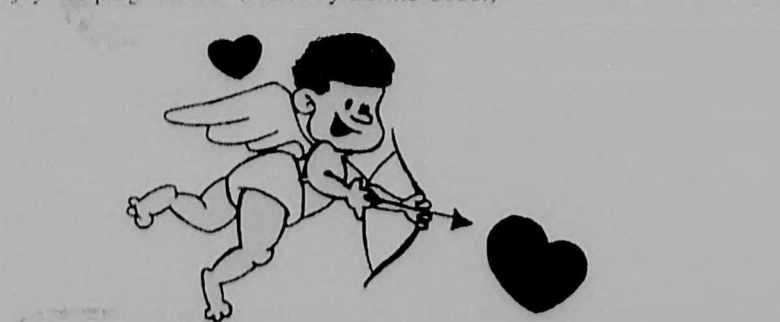
We're having fun now aren't we? (Aren't we?)

TIP OF THE WEEK! Scout out the local seed stores and make a list of the types and amounts of seed you need. For some varieties you might want to browse through commercial seed catalogs. Do that now. If you don't have any catalogs, let me know and I'll give you some names, addresses and toll-free telephone numbers. But, buy locally as much as you can.

(Ed. Send questions, comments or suggestions about this column to Bernie Cobb, 16098 Highway 167, New Brockton, AL; or e-mail him at: shark6@snohill.com).



Former U.S. Army aviator and commercial contract flight instructor Charlie Hiers, New Brockton, has two hot hobbies — backyard auto mechanics and backyard home gardening. Oops! Sorry, the auto work is not a hobby, it's a passion. The gardening is a hobby. "But, I don't believe in jerking and bouncing along behind a tiller for hours when I can do the job in just a few minutes with a tractor," Hiers insists when discussing site preparation. So, he did what he had to do — bought a tractor and necessary attachments. Above, Hiers checks out all connections prior to breaking ground for his first garden of the new millennium. He also enjoys helping others. (Photo by Bernie Cobb.)



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Choose feeders accordingly with birds

by Angela Hughes
County Extension Agent

While birds will visit feeders year-round, more people choose to feed during fall and winter months when food is more limited. Choose your feeders based on the birds you wish to attract. Covered platform feeders will allow several birds to feed at one time and may be favored by larger birds such as cardinals and blue jays. Hanging feeders

with perches are more attractive to smaller birds such as goldfinches and chickadees. Don't forget suet feeders for those birds that aren't attracted to seed feeders.

Keep all feeders clean. Wash regularly with soap and water solution. Rinse thoroughly. Wipe perches and seed ports with a soapy solution using a clean damp cloth to remove the soap, or use a mild bleach-and-water solution daily. This will help prevent diseases from spreading among the birds at your feeding station.

Remember different birds prefer different types of seed. Sunflower seeds will attract many types of birds, but why not try offering some special treats as well. Finches love tiny thistle seeds. Most songbirds prefer black oil sunflower seeds. Some birds enjoy fresh fruits. You can offer wedges of orange or apple occasionally. Cracked corn can be a real treat for many birds, including mourning doves.

Whatever seed you offer at your feeders make sure it is fresh, dry and free of mold. Moldy seed can make birds sick. Also, it should be free of trash. Trash, such as stems or leaf parts, can clog tube feeders.

Don't worry about sand, dirt or

small pebbles you may find mixed with feed. This "grit" helps toothless birds grind their food. Crushed eggshells added to feed do the same thing, and also can provide additional calcium to a bird's diet. This is especially important prior to the early spring nesting and egg-laying season. Be sure to provide birds with a water source in addition to food this winter. Whether you use a birdbath or a simple plastic pot saucer be sure to replace the water regularly with fresh.

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Reminder:
If you have a new E-911 address, let us know what it is! We must have your correct address before March so you won't miss a single issue of *The Elba Clipper!*

Community News

Elba Chamber beauty winners' pictures are released



PETITE LITTLE MISS: Winners of the 1999 Petite Little Miss Christmas pageant were: Catlyn Hutto, Petite Little Miss Christmas; Madison Millette, 1st Runner-Up; Taylor Hudson, 2nd Runner-Up; Vanessa Magwood, 3rd Runner-Up; and Clara Parker, 4th Runner-Up.



TINY TOT: Winners of the 1999 Tiny Tot Little Miss Christmas pageant were: Annsey Padgett, Tiny Tot Little Miss Christmas; Madelyn Kelley, 1st Runner-Up; and Nina Sawyer, 2nd Runner-Up.



MISS: Winners of the 1999 Miss Christmas pageant were: Sarah Miller, Miss Christmas; Carmenda Coleman, 1st Runner-Up; Lauren Moore, 2nd Runner-Up; Christine Cordes, 3rd Runner-Up; and Jessica Kelley, 4th Runner-Up.



LITTLE MISS: Winners of the 1999 Little Miss Christmas pageant were: Heather Hendricks, Little Miss Christmas; Adora Goochy, 1st Runner-Up; Morgan Driggers, 2nd Runner-Up; Gabby Powe, 3rd Runner-Up; and Bailey Daugherty, 4th Runner-Up.

The winners of the annual Elba Chamber of Commerce beauty pageant, held in conjunction with the annual Christmas Festival were recently released and are shown here.



JR. MISS: Winners of the 1999 Jr. Miss Christmas pageant were: Collette Newsome, Jr. Miss Christmas; and Amelia Jones, 1st Runner-Up.



MINI MISS: Winners of the 1999 Mini Miss Christmas pageant were: Megan Anderson, Mini Miss Christmas; Brooke Stinson, 1st Runner-Up; Summer Parker, 2nd Runner-Up; and Hannah Manning, 3rd Runner-Up.

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The Elba Clipper

Volume 103, Number 36 50 Cents Elba, Alabama Thursday, February 17, 2000 1 Section, 14 Pages Plus 1 Adv. Insert

Supt. Charles Pearce hands in resignation

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

Superintendent Charles Pearce surprised the Elba School Board Thursday night by submitting his resignation, effective the end of June, thus ending a ten year reign at the helm of the Elba City School system. The meeting had been routine, with routine staff resignations, personnel transfers and open concerns over the deteriorating financial condition of the school system dominating the meeting, when the 28 year veteran of the Elba school system presented board members with his prepared letter of resignation. He is one of at least 29 announced Alabama school superintendents retiring this year. The Elba school system also has at least five career teachers retiring at the end of the current school year.

In the statement Pearce wrote: "I plan to retire at the end of June, 2000. Please know that this has not been an easy decision. However, there is a lot of truth in the statement, 'You know when it's time'. It has been a pleasure to serve the last ten years as Superintendent for this fine school system. Because of



Supt. Charles Pearce

the support of present and past board members, much has been accomplished to make ECS one of the top school systems in the state. I thank each of you for allowing me to be a part of these accomplishments. I will continue to do all I can to help provide the best education possible for our students until my replacement is named and the transition is made."

Pearce told board members he would work with them, and the new superintendent they select during

the transition to make sure it is a smooth transfer of leadership. He said he will not be making any recommendation on any person to fill the position.

Following the meeting, Pearce said he had no definite plans but would stay involved in the community and was looking at a couple of part-time income producing projects. He said his retirement was not related to the fact his wife Freddie, a highly praised elementary teacher in the local system, had expressed her intentions of retiring at the end of the school year.

He added that the school system is in as good of shape as he can get it and promised to have it in better shape before leaving office at the end of June.

The school board members agreed to seek the assistance of the Alabama Association of School Boards in finding a qualified replacement. However, they later discovered the association was no longer involved in this screening process. The board plans to use the services of a not yet selected consulting group to do the initial interviewing and recommendation of a short list (possibly five or six candidates) of the best qualified candidates. The local board will then make the final selection.

Board members said informally after the meeting adjourned that an additional requirement will be that the successful candidate must agree to live in the Elba school district during his or her tenure in office.

In other business the board approved the transfer of Shannon Catlett to the Secretary/Bookkeeper position at Elba Elementary School. She had been serving as an aide in that office.

The board also accepted the resignation of Sereitha Flowers as P.E. Aide at Elba Elementary School.

The board adopted a state school Acceptable Use Policy, designed to control use of the technology, prohibit students from misusing the internet on school equipment and require written parental permission

Please See DANIELS Page 2

Please See BOE Page 2

Council updated on FEMA drainage project

by Linda Hodge, Staff Writer

The Elba City Council received an unexpected update Monday night on the FEMA drainage project for Martin Luther King Drive and Putnam Street during its regular bi-monthly meeting.

Although he was not on the agenda for Monday night's meeting, Bobby Lee, engineer with Peters Mitchell and Associates, addressed the council to bring them up-to-date on the plans and work being done to improve the drainage system on Martin Luther King Drive and Putnam Street.

On the Martin Luther King Drive side of the project, Lee said the job will require the addition of several larger concrete pipes and extensions along the Kennedy Estates area, Roosevelt Street, King Street and across through Martin Luther King Drive. He said presently, there is one outlet for the water in this area, and this project will allow them to add three new releases.

"Now, you've basically got one outlet," Lee said to the council members as they looked at the maps detailing the area where the work will be done. "After this project is complete, there will be four and you should have some real positive drainage."

Along the Putnam Street area, Lee told council members that all the water inlets will be replaced with new curb inlets which should allow the water to flow more quickly.

"This will let us get the water to the pumps quicker, and the water should get out of there sooner," Lee

said.

He also pointed out areas where new concrete pipes will be added in this section of the project.

When asked about the start date of this project, Lee said the contract between the City of Elba and the State of Alabama for this project is in the state's hands at this time to be signed. He said the planning for this project should be finished by next week, and hopefully, the state will have signed the contract by then.

"As soon as we get the approval for advertising, we will get started," Lee said.

In regards to new business, the council approved bids for the recreation department for sporting equipment. Upon Mayor James Grimes recommendation, the council voted to award the bids, based on each line item, to All-Star Sporting Goods if the company offered the lowest bid. If All-Star did not have the lowest bid on a certain line item, the bid was awarded to the lowest bidder.

The council also approved the purchase of a Turf Tractor for the recreation department to the low bidder for \$14,392, as well as the purchase of a 6-foot mower for the low bid of \$13,543. The mower, however, will not be purchased until April or May of this year.

In his report to the council, Police Chief R.W. Whitworth told council members that he and the mayor had attended the Coffee County Commission meeting earlier in the day to ask the commission for its help in supplying the funds so the city could create a new position for an E-911 operator. He said the commission took no action on their request.

Whitworth said the department had answered 411 E-911 calls from Jan. 1 through Feb. 12.

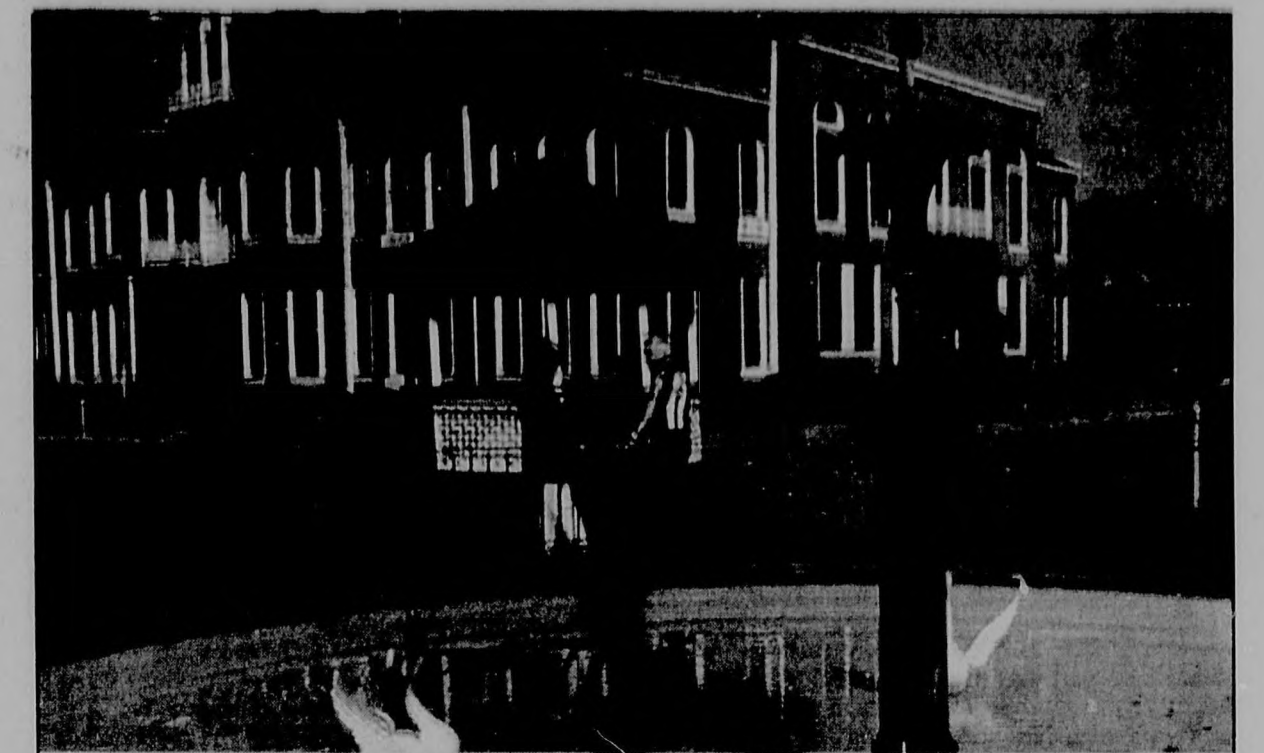
In other matters, the council took the following action:

* Appointed Neil Gilmer to the South Central Mental Health Board.

* Mayor Grimes told them that the general liability insurance contract had been renewed with Reliance. In the last meeting, the council gave the mayor, city clerk and city attorney approval to finalize this deal.

* Approved to pay the bills for the month which totaled \$21,219.68.

The motion to park all county vehicles except those assigned to persons on call for emergency type



WHERE HAVE ALL THE TREES GONE? This is the question being asked by several regular visitors to the downtown area of Elba. The trees being referred to are the dogwoods that until recently ringed the outer perimeter of the courthouse square. It had been noticed by several individuals that some of the trees were dying and an attempt was made to find out why. An "expert" from Auburn University was contacted and it was learned that the trees were getting too much direct sunlight. Dogwoods have to have about 50 percent of shaded light to thrive and grow properly. The dogwoods have been removed and trees which are more adaptable to the available sunlight will soon be planted on the square, one again adding to the beauty of downtown Elba.

The Elba Chamber of Commerce has sponsored a grant which was applied for through the City of Elba and was received to be used toward beautification of the square. The \$2,000 received is to be used to purchase crepe myrtle trees - 36 total - which will soon be planted on the square. Jimmy Harrison, who has really taken the beautification of the square to heart, is heading up the project for the Chamber of Commerce. He is quick to point out that all the civic organizations in the city are rising to the challenge of making downtown Elba a focal point of the city and making it a pleasant sight to residents as well as those passing through. The groups are making monetary contributions as well as providing manpower for this project. Kaye Whitworth, executive director of the Elba Chamber of Commerce, and Harrison said that a "Team Clean Up & Tree Planting Day" is being planned for Saturday, February 26. On that day all individuals and members of civic organizations are being encouraged to participate in this city-wide clean-up project. Not only will the trees be planted on the square but all areas of the town will be "cleaned up." In addition to planting the trees, a major landscaping project of the entire courthouse square, including the gazebo and flowing well fountain area, will be undertaken. Both Harrison and Whitworth encourage everyone to come out and take part in this very worthwhile project and get involved!

County Commission parks twelve vehicles

by Marvin McLain, Editor

The Coffee County Commission, even with several late entries to the agenda, managed to complete its business session in less than one hour Monday morning.

Commission Chairman Kayo Lewis wasted little time in getting to the old business of parking county vehicles not assigned to personnel who are subject to emergency call-out.

Prior to entertaining a motion to bring the matter off the table (action on this matter was tabled in the January 24th meeting), Chairman Lewis commented that in 1986 a policy was enacted by the commission in office at that time which stated that each foreman (with the highway department) be assigned a vehicle to keep at their residence in case of emergencies.

An additional motion was passed at that same time allowing county employees living in the same area as the foreman to ride to and from work with that foreman as long as there was room to do so.

Lewis told commissioners that he had asked the county administrator to check with other counties pertaining to their vehicle policy. He said all the surrounding counties checked with have almost the same type policy in place.

The motion to park all county vehicles except those assigned to persons on call for emergency type

situations - inclement weather, building maintenance, etc. - was brought before the commission for discussion and action (all law enforcement vehicles are exempt by law from this action).

During the discussion of the motion, Commissioner Tom Grimesley asked how many county vehicles would be parked as a result of this action by the commission.

Chairman Lewis said that twelve (12) vehicles (in addition to those already being parked) would be parked should the motion pass. The following vehicles make up the twelve: two(2) from the maintenance department; two(2) from the revenue department; two(2) from the juvenile probation office; one(1) from the county health department; two(2) from the landfill; and three(3) from the highway department.

The motion calls for these vehicles to be parked on county property at night (not necessarily in the county yard but at one of the court-houses or the county complex) after working hours - 6 a.m. until 5 p.m. The sheriff's department will be asked to keep a check on these vehicles and any county employee caught driving one of the vehicles after hours will be terminated.

Commissioners passed the motion with a unanimous vote. It becomes effective March 1, 2000.

The lone individual listed on the meeting agenda under new business was county resident Ray Howell, who lives on County Rd. 272.

"I just want to tell you that I'm not here to complain," said Mr. Howell. "First of all I want to say thank you to the county commissioners for the job you do, and to the county highway department."

He told commissioners that he lives on a dirt road and knew it was dirt when he built his home on it, and he was willing to accept that fact when he did so.

However, he said he was coming before the commission to make a plea and that was to ask that County Rd. 272 be placed on the list of dirt roads to be paved.

County Engineer Randy Tindell affirmed that at the present time the road was not on the list of dirt roads to be paved. It was also noted that a portion of the road is in the city

limits of New Brockton.

When asked by Mr. Howell what was needed to get the road on the list, Chairman Lewis said he should get a petition signed by all those individuals who live on and/or own land on the road stating that they are willing to sign right-of-way deeds.

Elba Chief of Police R. W. "Ronnie" Whitworth appeared before the commission asking for the county's assistance in funding two additional E-911 dispatcher slots for the Elba Police Department.

He noted that his dispatchers had answered 411 E-911 calls from January 1 to February 12. This is in addition to the normal radio traffic and telephone calls coming into the department. He commented that not all these calls are county related, however, the load is expected to become greater as time goes by.

Whitworth said E-911 calls consume a lot of time since the dispatcher has to remain on the line until the emergency is resolved - sometimes lasting forty-five minutes to an hour. He emphasized that

Please See CCC Page 2

Area Happenings

